

The Republican bill, desperate to spend no money helping schools but to fool the American public into thinking it helps schools, does nothing more than provide a free airplane ticket to Las Vegas for every school board member in the country so that they can take the school bond money to Vegas and see whether they can beat the odds. If they beat the odds, they can keep the profits for the kids.

Oh, if they lose the money, well, that is what Orange County, California, did, the county to the south of Lois and myself. They tried to play this arbitrage game, and they went bankrupt.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. I thank the gentleman. On that note, let me remind him and those who happen to be watching this evening that as school opens this fall, we will have showing up at the schoolhouse doors across America in the public schools more children than have ever been to public schools in America's history. Last year, as you remember, the secretary released his report on the baby-boom echo, which means all those baby-boomers after World War II now are having children and they are showing up.

Tonight I can report to Members we have talked with the Department today, we do not have the report on the numbers, but there is one thing we can say from what we have heard, that what we saw last year was a ripple compared to what we are going to see when the report comes out very shortly, because those numbers are just absolutely exploding all across America.

In my district, as an example, the baby-boom echoes, we have counties that are in double digits. You say well, there has to be a lot of economic growth there. Unfortunately, they happen to be counties adjacent to an urban center where they are getting a lot of residential growth, not a lot of economic-commercial growth.

For instance, one county, Franklin, had 19.6 percent growth over the last 8 years. My home county, 18.9; Lee County, 17.1, Nash, 17.3. They are all rural counties in transition and property taxes are under a burden. Wade County, the capital county, right at 30 percent. They are welcoming anywhere from 4,000 to 6,000 students this fall, and they have done it for the last several years. That is true across America. The pressure is getting so great out there, and this is a way we can be a help.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is putting the final touch, and as we heard already, has already put their touches on the final tax bill. We will find out tomorrow morning if they really care about making sure the children in this country have an opportunity for a decent place to go to school. Because if you are in a cold environment in the winter and a hot environment in the summer, and the building roofs leak and the wind blows

through the walls, you can talk all you want to about quality education, and then we wonder why we cannot recruit teachers and retain teachers. You do not have to be very bright to figure that out. Business figured that out a long time ago. They provide a good environment for their employees and quality training.

We can do something about it. It is within our goal. We stood in line today to sign the Rangel bill to make sure we got a discharge petition. Today my colleagues are working on it.

Mr. Speaker, I know our time is about to expire. Let me thank my two colleagues from California for joining me this evening. On behalf of the children of America, who only have us to speak for them, because they do not vote, and some of their parents do not take the opportunity to vote, I thank you for coming this evening and sharing and getting into the record the importance of school construction and opportunities for our children.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0038

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2488, THE TAXPAYER REFUND AND RELIEF ACT OF 1999

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-291) on the resolution (H. Res. 274) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2488) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce individual income tax rates, to provide marriage penalty relief, to reduce taxes on savings and investments, to provide estate and gift tax relief, to provide incentives for education savings and health care, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2684, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2000

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-292) on the resolution (H. Res. 275) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1467, EXTENDING THE FUNDING LEVELS FOR AVIATION PROGRAMS FOR 60 DAYS

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-293) on the resolution (H. Res. 276) providing for consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1467) to extend the funding levels for aviation programs for 60 days, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1905

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 1905) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 106-290)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1905) "making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes", having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

Amendment numbered 1:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 1, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed, insert:

SENATE

EXPENSE ALLOWANCES

For expense allowances of the Vice President, \$10,000; the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, \$10,000; Majority Leader of the Senate, \$10,000; Minority Leader of the Senate, \$10,000; Majority Whip of the Senate, \$5,000; Minority Whip of the Senate, \$5,000; and Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Conference Committees, \$3,000 for each Chairman; in all, \$56,000.

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

For representation allowances of the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, \$15,000 for each such Leader; in all, \$30,000.