

history of obstructing the consideration of any other proposal to conduct sewage treatment at our border. Mexico is where the sewage starts and Mexico, by right, owns the water from any treatment plant. Why is the EPA opposed to building treatment ponds, then, in Mexico? I cannot understand how an agency such as EPA, which I support in the main and which is charged with protecting the environment of the United States, can be preventing a long-term or comprehensive solution to this problem.

The gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) and I share the problem of Mexican sewage on the beaches and in the riverbeds of our districts. We have asked EPA, we have asked IBWC to work with us and to work with this House to solve the problem. We want those agencies to assure the Mexican government that they can undertake a fair review of this House's proposal without facing the possibility of loss of infrastructure help. We want the Mexican government, as supported by the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) and myself and hopefully with EPA and IBWC, to get Mexico to do a fair, objective review of this proposal and tell us how long it would take and what steps have to be done to implement it.

□ 1330

Mr. Speaker, the bureaucrats in EPA and IBWC have employed spectacularly poor judgment on this issue. Let us hope that they come to their senses soon. We look forward to continuing to work with them to create a long-term solution that will protect the environment of our districts in San Diego, of the international border in the southwest corner of our Nation.

#### RESOLUTION ON POTENTIALLY LETHAL FOOD ALLERGIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, as we complete this week of business here in Congress, I wanted to remind my colleagues of a resolution I introduced a little earlier; it is H. Res. 309, because it is an important resolution expressing the sense of the House regarding strategies to better protect the millions of Americans with food allergies from potentially fatal allergic reactions and to further assure the safety of manufactured food from inadvertent allergen contamination.

The majority of the 5.2 million people who have serious and potentially fatal allergic reactions to foods such as peanuts, fish, shellfish, tree nuts are children. These children will never outgrow their allergies, and there is no vaccine to prevent these deadly aller-

gic reactions. All that these children can do is avoid eating or coming in contact in any way with peanuts, fish, shellfish or tree nuts.

Even a small trace of peanuts or shellfish can produce a severe allergic reaction. Many children spend their day at school in fear, afraid to touch a door knob or a desk top that might have a smear of peanut butter. While it would be difficult to control the school or the work environment, there are steps that can be taken to protect children and adults from severe allergic reaction to food.

For instance, major commercial food processors and producers should produce products on separate dedicated manufacturing lines. Allergens in food should be identified in terms that are clear, understandable to the average citizen. Most consumers have no idea that products that are labeled with ingredients such as natural flavors contain peanuts or that shrimp extract is used to enhance the flavor of frozen beef teriyaki. Any food product that lists natural flavors as part of the ingredients should specify on the package that the product includes peanuts. Foods which are common, life-threatening allergens should not be added gratuitously to products where their taste is negligible.

Industry, consumer and scientific groups should voluntarily work together on initiatives to better educate food industry workers and the public on the issues of food allergy safety, and after 1 year an assessment should be made of the success of these initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, every year about 125 people die from fatal allergic reactions to food in the United States, and every year the number of people who have potentially fatal allergic reactions to food is increasing. I have a number of constituents who fall into that category, and I am sure that all of my colleagues will find the same in their districts.

H. Res. 309 will increase awareness of the serious impact of severe food allergies on the American people and the need to address this very important health problem.

#### ALTERING TAX CREDIT FOR WORKING FAMILIES IS WRONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, while I have not heard many cries of Happy New Year or singing of Auld Lang Syne, today is New Year's day for the Federal fiscal year. This is day number one, and we find ourselves in this new year with the Government being able to operate only because a stop-gap emergency measure was approved earlier this week.

As we begin this new year, the Federal Government is supposed to have some 13 appropriation bills approved for its normal operation. Fewer than half of those at this late date have even been sent to the President. The measure that funds all of our Federal education programs, our health research, a number of other very important programs for seniors, and for Americans of all ages, that bill has not even been presented for consideration on the floor of this House, much less sent to the President.

I have just come from a press conference with the Concord Coalition with the national debt clock, which displays by the second how the national debt continues to rise. Billions of dollars of new national debt are being incurred as we fail in the Congress to deal responsibly with our budget.

Instead of responsibility, what we have seen throughout this year has been one budget gimmick after another. We have had more budget emergencies designated here, I think more emergencies than the EMS has to deal with; the census being declared an emergency; an emergency on fuel assistance, since it still turns hot in the summer and cold in the winter, as it always has. All these gimmicks just like the proposal to go to a 13-month Federal fiscal year are designed solely to circumvent the spending limitations established in the Balanced Budget agreement.

This year the Republicans have dipped some \$18 billion into the Social Security Trust Fund just to fund the measures that they themselves have advanced this year without even getting to their irresponsible tax bill.

Particularly indicative of the problems that we have been dealing with in this Congress is what has happened just within the last 24 hours. The latest of these gimmicks is to turn to the working poor in this country, the starting police officer or teacher, the fast-food worker, the nursing home worker, those who earn an earned income tax credit and get a tax refund at the end of the year as an incentive to continue working and providing for their families.

The Republicans voted yesterday in committee and plan to present perhaps as early as this next week a deferral of that earned income tax credit. Instead of providing it to the folks that are working hard to make ends meet, they want to defer it. They have had the audacity to suggest that this gimmick to gain \$8 billion right out of the hides of working families; the Republicans defended that in the Washington Post this week saying their plan "would encourage better monthly planning for the beneficiaries."

They want better monthly planning for the nurse who is looking forward to that tax refund in order to make a