

REPUBLICANS DO LITTLE OR NOTHING ON ISSUES THAT CONCERN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this term, do-nothing Democrats, is a curious term to me. As best I remember, the Republicans have a majority in this House, the Republicans have a majority in the United States Senate; and yet they have been unable to complete their work. We have begun this new Federal fiscal year without the necessary appropriations acts and they have yet to even present one of the largest of those appropriations acts for our consideration. Likewise, they have produced so far this year, perhaps, the most unique set of legislative accomplishments largely centering on naming a few places and buildings and memorial coins and doing little or nothing on the real issues that concern the American people.

One of those real issues is having a true patients' bill of rights for those in managed health care. With consideration of important consumer legislation delayed this month after month, week after week, we will finally this week have an opportunity to provide Americans some real protection with a genuine patients' bill of rights. That is what Democratic efforts, joined with a handful of Republicans who were willing to buck their leadership to stand up for the rights of ordinary Americans against mismanaged care, can accomplish.

Give us a Democratic majority, and my colleagues will really see what Democrats can do to address health care and other concerns of American Families.

UNDERSTAND THE FACTS ABOUT THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

(Mr. GOODLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOODLING. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would tell the gentleman that I just read in the newspaper last week where the minority leader said that the Democrats are determining what the legislation is on the floor of the House, so that is kind of interesting. But that is not why I wanted to speak.

I have heard a lot of people, many, talking about the Older Americans Act, and unfortunately they do not know what they are talking about. The Older Americans Act, which we worked on for 6 months, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT), as a matter of fact does more than it has ever done before in an authorization as far as employment programs are concerned, as far as

States are concerned. If my colleagues only understood the way the legislation is now and has been for years, says that 45 percent of all of the money will stay in Washington, 55 percent will go back to the State. That is not the way it has been appropriated. It has been appropriate 78 and 22. But that is not the way it is authorized. We improved that, and we said just reverse, 55 percent will stay here, 45 percent will go back.

So be sure to understand the facts about what it was we wanted to present which we will not present during this session of Congress again.

NEVER AGAIN

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) has a very short memory. He tells the House and the American people to give us a Democratic majority and we will show them what we can do. Mr. Speaker, I remember the last time there was a Democratic majority and the Speaker from Texas, and the House passed no appropriations bills at all by the 30th of September, and all 13 appropriation bills ended up being put in one huge massive and continuing resolution that the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, plunked on that desk there, stack after stack after stack, and said no way will I ever sign one of those continuing resolutions again.

Now that is what happened the last time there was a Democratic majority, and I hope that we never have that happen again under either a Republican or Democratic majority.

□ 1415

EARNING THE RESPECT OF AMERICA

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the best thing to do, to sum up all of this, is let us get past the partisan rhetoric, get down to business, and do our jobs, and maybe then America will respect what we are doing here.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to 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.

Any rollcall votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2607) to promote the development of the commercial space transportation industry, to authorize appropriations for the Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, to authorize appropriations for the Office of Space Commercialization, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2607

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commercial Space Transportation Competitiveness Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) a robust United States space transportation industry is vital to the Nation's economic well-being and national security;

(2) a 5-year extension of the excess third party claims payment provision of chapter 701 of title 49, United States Code, (Commercial Space Launch Activities) is necessary at this time to protect the private sector from uninsurable levels of liability;

(3) enactment of this extension will have a beneficial impact on the international competitiveness of the United States space transportation industry;

(4) space transportation may eventually move into more airplane-style operations;

(5) during the next 3 years the Federal Government and the private sector should analyze and determine whether a more appropriate and effective liability risk-sharing regime can be achieved and, if so, develop and propose the new regime to Congress at least 2 years prior to the expiration of the extension contained in this Act;

(6) the areas of responsibility of the Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation have significantly increased as a result of—

(A) the rapidly expanding commercial space transportation industry and associated government licensing requirements;

(B) regulatory activity as a result of the emerging commercial reusable launch vehicle industry; and

(C) the increased regulatory activity associated with commercial operation of launch and reentry sites; and

(7) the Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation should engage in only those promotional activities which directly support its regulatory mission.

SEC. 3. OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 70119 of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§70119. Office of Commercial Space Transportation

“There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation for the activities of the Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation—

“(1) \$6,275,000 for fiscal year 1999;

“(2) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

“(3) \$8,300,000 for fiscal year 2001; and