

money for the first time in 40 years this year.

Despite the fact that we have reduced discretionary spending as a percent of GDP for the past five years we are still using 20.8 percent of the gross domestic product of this country in spending and running this Federal Government, the highest spending in history, the highest rate of taxation in history. Now we are asking departments just to try to hold the line, to increase efficiency, to get rid of some waste and some fraud and some abuse in their spending.

You have heard the figure one percent. That is how much we need to reduce what is authorized. It is 0.8 percent of outlays, 0.8 percent reduction in what is now expected to be spent. We are saying to those administrators, directors, department heads, try to look at efficiencies to save 8 cents out of every \$10. Correct and stop some of the fraud and abuse. Mr. Speaker, they can do it. Let us do it. Let us join together. Let us save Social Security.

#### A PENNY SAVED IS RETIREMENT SECURED

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to set the record straight. Despite the accusations being lodged by the Democrat tax-and-spend caucus, the Republican plan to save Social Security for millions of Americans does not mandate cutting any government programs. It does not touch Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' pensions, food stamps, or any other important benefits program.

Instead, it makes the heads of Federal agencies more accountable for how they spend the taxpayers' hard-earned money. We are telling them we think they can do better and we are telling them they must work to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in their agencies, because if they don't, they will jeopardize the retirement security for three generations of Americans.

No longer will Congress stand idly by as the Washington big spenders live like parasites off the retirement dollars of working Americans. The Republican Congress will set aside 1 penny of every Federal dollar to meet our commitment to the American people. A penny saved is retirement secured.

#### SECURING SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Sunday the Democratic leader of the Congress, RICHARD GEPHARDT, showed his party's

true colors. While the Republican majority has made a commitment to the American people to spend not a penny of the Social Security surplus, the Democratic leader feels differently. He said yesterday, "We really ought to spend as little of it as possible."

Is that not grand? "As little as possible." We all know what that means. It means that the Democrats here in Congress want to spend more money on government and use what is left for Social Security.

That is just not good enough. We can meet our commitment to our Nation's retirees by setting aside barely a penny, a penny, of every dollar that government spends. It is that simple.

While the bureaucrats in Washington might be upset that they will have to eliminate some waste, fraud, and abuse in their agencies, the American people will be happy to know that their retirements are secure. Let us just do it.

#### NATION AWAITS ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN FOR SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I did last week and previous days, to again request that the administration deliver to the House its plan for Social Security.

Now, I saw the report in the newspaper this weekend about the President's pending delivery; but, in fact, there is nothing here yet. We are now on day 299 from when I first got here, still looking for that plan.

Mr. Speaker, we have reserved H.R. 1 for this purpose. We are still waiting. Talk is talk, and action is action. Now is the time for action.

I ask that the administration finally deliver its plan for Social Security. The Nation awaits.

□ 1030

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings 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.

Rollcall votes on postponed questions may be taken in two groups, the first occurring before debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, and the second after debate has concluded on remaining motions.

#### TWO YEAR EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR ADMISSION OF AN ALIEN AS A NONIMMIGRANT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3061) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend for an additional 2 years the period for admission of an alien as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(S) of such Act, and to authorize appropriations for the refugee assistance program under chapter 2 of title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3061

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

#### SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

In light of the increasing problem of alien smuggling into the United States, it is the sense of the Congress that the Attorney General should use the provision of non-immigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(S) of the Immigration and Nationality Act in a greater number of alien smuggling investigations per year than has been done in the past.

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR ADMISSION OF "S" VISA NON-IMMIGRANTS.

Section 214(k)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(k)(2)) is amended by striking "5" and inserting "7".

#### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE.

Section 414(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1524(a)) is amended by striking "1998 and 1999" and inserting "2000 through 2002".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3061 reauthorizes two longstanding important immigration programs, both of which ran out in September and may not properly continue until they are reauthorized.

Authorization for 250 "S" visas per year, which are used by the Justice Department to obtain the testimony of informants in international organized crime cases, ran out on September 13, 1999, and no visas may be issued until it is reauthorized.

Since its initiation in 1994, the "S" visa has proved to be a valuable tool

for law enforcement. According to the Justice Department, the agency is currently involved in a number of ongoing criminal investigations where the "S" visa would be useful, and time is of the essence. H.R. 3061 reauthorizes the program, and also expresses the sense of Congress that "S" visas should be used in more investigations of alien smuggling, which is a growing and serious problem.

H.R. 3061 also reauthorizes the refugee resettlement program that assists refugees to the United States by providing job training, language training, and other services. The bill creates no new funding or regulatory requirements. It simply reauthorizes two important existing programs.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3061.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Violent Crime Control Act of 1994 created a new "S" non-immigrant visa classification. It permits up to 300 foreign nationals a year to enter the United States to provide information that is needed for the investigation and prosecution of criminal and terrorist organizations.

The Violent Crime Control Act also permits the Attorney General to grant lawful permanent resident status to the foreign nationals who provide this assistance. This is available in cases where the information supplied substantially contributes to the prevention of an act of terrorism or to the success of an important criminal investigation or prosecution. This is necessary because many of these people are in danger in their home countries after they have cooperated with an investigation or testified in a criminal proceeding.

This is also helpful because of the use of our particular law enforcement and justice system that requires the information these individuals may provide us in order to safeguard the lives of the American people.

One of the people who provided information under this program was a flight attendant who was in a plane on which a bomb had been placed. Her testimony led to the conviction of a major terrorist and other members of his terrorist organization. Another person in this program was an individual in a central European capital who provided critical information about Russian organized crime syndicates. Another example is a group of hearing-impaired Mexicans who provided information about being smuggled into the United States by a family-based crime organization. When they arrived, they were forced to work without pay selling trinkets on the street.

The bill also expresses the sense of Congress that the visas should be used

in a greater number of alien smuggling investigations than has been done in the past. The "S" visa program ended on September 13, 1991. H.R. 3061 would extend the availability of this program for another 2 years, through September 13, 2001.

This bill also reauthorizes the Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program, which is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement. Loss of these funds would be a disaster to the refugees who have come to our country seeking a safe haven from persecution.

Appropriations to fund this program are currently authorized through FY 1991. H.R. 3061 would continue the authorization to FY 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that these are worthy requests being made by H.R. 3061, and it will assist those in our government to protect refugees, but as well, to avoid the devastation of terrorism.

With that, I would urge my colleagues to vote to support this important bill.

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I urge you to vote for this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3061.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

URGING UNITED STATES TO SEEK  
GLOBAL CONSENSUS SUP-  
PORTING MORATORIUM ON TAR-  
IFFS AND SPECIAL, MULTIPLE,  
AND DISCRIMINATORY TAXATION  
OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 190) urging the United States to seek a global consensus supporting a moratorium on tariffs and on special, multiple, and discriminatory taxation of electronic commerce, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 190

Whereas electronic commerce is not bound by geography and its borders are not easily discernible;

Whereas transmissions over the Internet are made through packet-switching, making it impossible to determine with any degree of certainty the precise geographic route or endpoints of specific Internet transmissions and infeasible to separate domestic from foreign Internet transmissions;

Whereas inconsistent and inadministrable taxes imposed on Internet activity by sub-national and national governments threaten not only to subject consumers, businesses, and other users engaged in interstate and foreign commerce to multiple, confusing, and burdensome taxation, but also to restrict the growth and continued technological maturation of the Internet itself;

Whereas the complexity of the issue of domestic taxation of electronic commerce is compounded when considered at the global level with almost 200 separate national governments;

Whereas the First Annual Report of the United States Government Working Group on Electronic Commerce found that fewer than 10,000,000 people worldwide were using the Internet in 1995, that more than 140,000,000 people worldwide were using the Internet in 1998, and that more than 1,000,000,000 people worldwide will be using the Internet in the first decade of the next century;

Whereas information technology industries have accounted for more than one-third of real growth in the United States' Gross Domestic Product over the past three years;