

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

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

There was no objection.

RICHARD W. SCHAFFERT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1023) for the relief of Richard W. Schaffert.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that this bill be passed over without prejudice.

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

There was no objection.

WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT: A BETTER WAY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, more than half of this Nation's wild horse population and burro population roams free over the rangelands of Nevada. But the State of Nevada has little or no authority over the management of these herds because wild horse and burro management rests solely with the Bureau of Land Management, mostly here in Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, the BLM's management has proven to be highly ineffective and terribly destructive to both the rangeland and to these animals.

Wild horses and burros are causing havoc and destruction on Nevada's rangelands through overgrazing and destruction of riparian areas. Many animals simply are starving to death because the land cannot physically sustain them.

These horses and burros may not be the brightest animals on the farm, but neither is the bureaucracy here in Washington, D.C. The failure of this current management system is obvious to many Nevadans.

Clearly, the current Federal bureaucracy is doing more harm than good, and a change needs to be made. Congress needs to act to pass H.R. 2874, the Wild Horse and Burro Preservation and Management Act.

Madam Speaker, I yield back whatever common horse sense may remain in the BLM's management policy.

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM RATHER THAN JUST TALK ABOUT IT

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

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, we began this session of Congress in January with much hope of improving our Social Security system and strengthening it. Both Democrats and Republicans talked about making that our top priority. Well, Madam Speaker, we are now near the end of this session of Congress, and we have not lived up to our commitments to our seniors.

In January, we talked about extending the Social Security Trust Fund. Now, when we look at what is going to be done, we will not extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund by one day.

The Republican leadership is trying to change the subject. But our seniors understand what is happening. It was our responsibility to act on Social Security this year, and we are not going to do it.

The President has sent up proposals that would extend the solvency of the Social Security system by 16 years. That is a good first step. We should pass that. Then we should work together as Democrats and Republicans to strengthen our Social Security system rather than just talking about it.

MINIMUM WAGE HIKE IS UNNECESSARY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of a few reasons that a minimum wage hike is unnecessary. Raising the minimum wage harms the very people that it is supposed to help.

U.S. Census figures show that the average income of minimum wage employees increases by 30 percent within 1 year of employment. Why? Because, as these workers spend time in the workplace, they accumulate more skills and increase their own value. Just plain common sense.

That is why less than 3 percent of employees above the age of 30 work at the minimum wage. The longer they are in the work force, the more money they make.

Madam Speaker, there are better ways to empower the poorest and least skilled in our society. Tax incentives for working Americans and businesses are just one way. Raising the minimum wage is clearly the wrong way.

I urge my colleagues to keep these important factors in mind as the House debates a minimum wage hike in the future.

SENIORS DISAPPOINTED WITH FAILURE TO SOLVE SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY BEFORE CLOSE OF CONGRESS

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, think how disappointed the American public must be as they see the Congress coming to a close in the next couple of weeks and how it has failed to address the problems of Social Security, to extend the solvency of Social Security, to deal with the fundamental reforms that are necessary so that Social Security will be there for us, for our children and our grandchildren; and then to find out, not only have they failed to extend the solvency of Social Security, but the Republicans have made a conscience decision to dip into the trust funds.

As we were told at the end of last week by the Congressional Budget Office, some \$17 billion has been taken out of the Social Security Trust Funds to finance the gimmicks that the Republicans have put together to try and pass the budget, a budget that has yet to pass.

Think of the disappointment of the American public when they learn this most fundamental program, this most important program to the retirees of our Nation has been given this kind of treatment during this session as the Republicans get ready to leave this town and to end this Congress. Not only have they spent the Social Security Trust Fund, but they have also failed to deal with prescription drug benefits and with the minimum wage.

SENIORS WILL BE DISAPPOINTED WITH CONGRESSIONAL RECORD THIS YEAR

(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. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to finish our work in Washington and return home to our districts, we know we will have to explain our record here in Congress. It looks as though we will return to our seniors with terrible news. We will tell them that while the House passed a Social Security Lockbox Protection bill on May 26, this bill to permanently stop the raid on Social Security funds has been held hostage in the other body now for a total of 159 days.

We will have to explain to our seniors that some big spenders in Washington want to continue the raid on Social Security funds. We stopped the raid this year, but it was not easy. That is why the lockbox bill is so important. It will make it easier to stop the raid in future years.

I hope President Clinton and all the outside interest groups that say they speak for the interest of American seniors will join me in supporting lockbox protection for the Social Security Trust Fund.