The gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSs. Mr. Speaker, the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), my colleague, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the joint resolution, all time yield.

Mr. Speaker, today, we place before the House what we hope will be the last continuing resolution for fiscal year 2000. Yesterday, I referred to the movie "Groundhog Day" to describe the events of the past few weeks, where we seem to wake up each morning and do the same things we did the day before. And while we are here again as we were yesterday considering a rule to bring forward another short-term extension of the budget deadline, we are confident that a final agreement has been brokered and the process is finally now near to total completion.

Like yesterday's, this rule is a standard closed rule providing for consideration of the continuing resolution. While the Speaker's expiration date is November 23, the rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution, provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, and affords the traditional motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we have all been struggling to find the right negotiating mix to bring this budget process to a conclusion. Our firm line in the sand has remained constant: we will not spend one dime of the Social Security Trust Fund. While there has been the normal and appropriate give and take between the White House and the Congress on a host of other issues, our constituents, both young and old, I think are the real winners today.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in over the 3 decades, Washington, D.C., will not be using Social Security as a slush fund. We have made the tough choices necessary to balance the budget without touching Social Security. It has been a long, it has been an arduous process; but the end result under the tension of the budget deadline, we are confident that a final agreement has been brokered and the process is finally now near to total completion.

As I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LA Tourette). The pending business is consideration of House Resolution 385 offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss).
I am both known for our placid temperaments. I simply want to say that I regard Senator STEVENS as one of the easiest people to deal with. Not because he is easy in negotiations; he is hard as nails. But one always knows where he is coming from, and he plays it straight; and I, again, appreciate that very much.

Mr. Speaker, I want to explain why I called the last motion, and why I will be calling a number of other motions today. I think there are certain requirements that this House ought to meet in doing the work that is before it with the most basic responsibility it has each year, which is to pass the budget for the coming year.

Budgets are not just numbers. They define our priorities. They indicate our values. The budget is the primary document by which Congress tries to influence the country. We owe it to the country to consider that budget in a serious, thoughtful, fair-minded and honest way.

We are not going to do that today. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. Young) indicated that this rule was put to bed at almost 4 o'clock this morning. It looks like I saw Arianna Huffington, again a person with whom I do not share much in common philosophically, but I saw her on a television program on women's issues a few nights ago; and she observed that she was very concerned about politicians who would brag about the fact that they were up until 4 o'clock in the morning making decisions. She said, "I do not trust any decision that is made at 4 o'clock in the morning," and I think she is largely right.

My problem, and I have numerous problems with this bill and I will explain more of them in detail when we get to the actual appropriations debate later on today or tomorrow, but the fact is that there are two problems that I have that override all others. First of all, we have at least nine separate authorization measures which are being folded into this bill. One of them, a more than 300-page authorization bill which is yet to be conferenced, and yet it is being thrown in here. I defy my colleagues to tell me what is in it, and I urge my colleagues to remember that we will probably be, long after this bill is done, in the dark as to what is in it.

There are nine separate authorizations. I believe instead of having only 1 hour to debate all of those authorizations, plus the budgetary decisions that were made here in the bill before us today, I believe each of those authorizations should be pulled out of the bill. They should be debated separately and sequentially for at least an hour before we vote on each and every one of them.

Secondly, I think we should have had 24 hours to understand what is in this bill. We are going to be haunted by a number of things that are in this bill.
Mr. Speaker, among the authorities that are added to this bill are the Medicare, Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance program, which I probably favor. But I think we ought to know more about how they are being put together.

Second, we have the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorizations Act. I do not have the foggiest idea what is in that and neither does anybody else on the floor. We have H.R. 3428, which brings several dairy authorization measures to this floor, including the Northeast Compact. That compact was slipped into the law in the first place several years ago without ever having been voted on by either body. It was slipped in by the Senate, and now we are again slipping it in without it ever having been considered by either body. I think that is illegitimate.

The Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act. That is the satellite bill. I understand, communal areas, and guarantees that are useful in rural areas have been taken out of that bill.

I understand there are also patents and trademark items in that bill. I think we ought to know more about that.

I have the Superfund Recycling Equity Act. This bill reminds me of what Churchill said about Russia, “A riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.” We do not have any idea what that bill is really going to do in the fine print.

Then we have the Canyon Ferry Reservoir provisions, and international debt relief (again which I favor); but I am concerned, very, very concerned, about one section of that bill, which I think may not in fact deliver what it appears to promise.

Then we have a number of private bills which have been attached, one of which I think I would favor and the other which I am concerned about because it only includes a few people out of a much broader class that ought to be included in the kind of relief contemplated by that bill that is going to be given.

In my view, every time I make a motion which requires a rollcall before we can proceed to the next stage, that gives Members more time to find out what is in this bill before they actually cast the most important vote of the session. That is why I intend to make numerous motions today, and I most definitely would not count on being out of here by 4 p.m. or 5 p.m., or maybe even today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LaTourette), The Chair would remind all Members that it is not appropriate to make references to the characteristics of Senators, even favorable characteristics.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PASSALONG).

Mr. PASSALONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by associating myself with the comments of the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Today, we have before us an omnibus bill which unfortunately bears only similarities to the legislation that we considered a year ago at the close of the session. And for many of us, we promised we would never again let ourselves be trapped in this situation. We had a bipartisan budget process reform task force that worked. We came up with a series of recommendations. But tragically, none of those recommendations was even brought to the floor for debate. I hope that in the year 2000 we can indeed take up this budget reform proposal and avoid an omnibus catch-all bill of the type that is being criticized today.

I recognize there are many good points to the bill, and I too would compliment the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations for his work. I have deep respect for him. But I would like to point out that there are many things in there that ought to be separately considered or are simply inappropriate in the bill, and commitments were made earlier in the session by the Speaker, by the majority leader and others that these provisions would not show up in an appropriations bill.

One such provision relates to dairy policy. In this country we have endured a dairy policy which has split our Nation into separate zones for no good reason other than to try to maintain some anti-competitive framework in dairy. This is crazy. In early December, we will go to Seattle, many will go to Seattle, for the WTO conference where we are trying to expand our international trade opportunities. And why is it at the same time that we are expanding international trade opportunities we continue to balkanize our country with respect to dairy programming?

Mr. Speaker, it makes absolutely no sense that we would continue to balkanize this country for purposes of dairy policy so that fluid milk from one part of the country, namely the upper Midwest, is at a competitive disadvantage because of government policy with fluid milk from other parts of the country. We cannot allow this type of antiquated dairy policy to survive, and for this reason and others I will be opposing the bill.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, marginally, to delay yet another day. I do not think that significant deaths should go unnoticed. Unmourned, yes, but not unnoticed. And I am talking about the caps of 1997.

In 1997, this House engaged in a great orgy of self-congratulation by adopting a budget bill which not only cut Medicare significantly without a recommendation of the very people who were realizing that that was happening, but which enacted a set of restrictions on total spending. They would have lasted from 1997 until 2002, and they would be a template for the future. Alas, they did not last very long. The great balance of budget accomplishment of 1997, the caps, which were unnecessary and unrealistic at the time, have died. And it does not seem to me in this Chamber, where we are so given to ceremonial oratory, that we ought to allow that death to pass unnoticed.

The premature passing of the caps, as I said, is not an occasion for mourning. I think it is an occasion for celebration that reality has finally broken through the ideological miasma, and it ought to be noted. And it ought to be noted for a couple of reasons.

First of all, there were many of us who, in 1997, thought that the caps were, to use technical parliamentary language, a very stupid idea. They were clearly unrealistic, unsustainable, and they were a farce. And I find, Mr. Speaker, having been one of those who said in 1997, that as I get older one of the few pleasures that increases with age is being able to say, “I told you so.” So I do want to say that I and others told you so in 1997. Welcome to reality.

But it also is important because it shows that the vision of the role of the public sector that motivated this House, and particularly the majority in 1997, was flawed deeply. The American public understood better than this House did that there are needs that can best be served by private expenditures, but for a civilized society to achieve the quality of life that it needs, there have to be done together; transportation, the environment, compassion for people in need, public safety.

And the reason the caps died unceremoniously, hopefully unnoticed, according to the people on the other side, they have a new thing about Social Security spending, but I urge people to go back and read the budget debates of 1997. Never has an entity, the people on the other side, had a new thing about Social Security spending, but I urge people to go back and read the budget debates of 1997. Never has an entity, the people on the other side, had a new thing about Social Security spending.
that they add up to more than that whole. And, therefore, the whole with the "H" has become a hole with an "H." It has become a hole in the ground into which the caps have been interred and over which today we will shovel the dirt.

So Members should be aware that when they vote today on the major bill, a multi-omnibus appropriation bill, they are funding the government at a reasonable level. And funding the government at a reasonable level means the end of the caps. And I hope that we will not again put ourselves through that.

Now, of course, it is also the case that that bill will undo part of what we did with Medicare. And as I look at the extent to which this bill today will repudiate what was so enthusiastically held in 1997, I do wonder whether it was the real Members of the House or a group of mass invaders who did it. But whatever the reason was, the fact that the bill today will be voted into public policy Medicare and spending programs that were so foolish that today we have to repudiate them.

Now, back in 1997, DNA evidence was not as developed, so we may never know whether it was the real Members of the House or a group of mass invaders who did it. But whatever the reason was, the fact that the bill today will be a thorough repudiation of the mistakes of 1997, is something to be noticed, although not mourned.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish we could vote. I wish we had something of consequence to vote on. I wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would have provided us with real legislation.

I thank my good friend from Massachusetts, the ranking member of the Committee on Rules; but unfortunately, what we have here is a bag of tricks. This is a continuing resolution with an extension to November 23. It is a rule for that. I would ask, though I do realize that we are facing the Thanksgiving holiday, that we take our responsibilities in this body seriously. And though I appreciate the work of the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and the ranking member for their individual intensity in the negotiations of this particular omnibus bill, it is sad and it is not worthy of the American people.

Earlier this morning we heard a point that I think is very well taken. The American people do not even know what we are doing up here. They do not understand the concept, and all of the mishmash and misinformation that has been given to them leaves them confused.

I think this bill has some valuable points to it. Ultimately, when it comes to the floor, we are told that teaching hospitals, Medicare payments to hospitals, and health care providers are included. That is a positive. It helps my community in Houston. My own school district suffered for the lack of teachers, so 100,000 teachers will be valuable. Fifty thousand police will be valuable as well.

But I cannot tell for the life of me whether we are spending the Social Security surplus or whether we are sav- ing it. And because my seniors are extremely important to me, I have great doubts about this bill. And, in fact, since it is not here on the table, I think all the Members should be questioning this bill.

Then it is interesting that although we have heard a lot about riders and legislating on appropriations bills, because every time we bring up the idea of a patients' bill of rights, which 80 percent of the American people would like to see us pass, or prescription protection for our seniors, who are begging for relief because they cannot pay for housing and food and prescriptions at the same time, we get an argument that we cannot legislate on appropriations bills. Yet we have a 300-page State Department bill, which nobody knows what is in it; we have satellite TV special interests, and I am sure they are interested in that. I happen to support the resolution on that. But here we are lumping all of that together. We have the dairy issue, which some of our Members are for and against.

We are lowering the maintenance and readiness of our military by cutting into that very deeply. We have literally taken women for granted and thrown them off the side of the Earth.

And then I have been meeting for the families of the victims of the Tanzania and Kenya bombings. We agree we were in error. We know we did not have the kind of secure premises that we should have had in our embassy overseas. And yet, nobody has responded to the plea of these families to provide them with any relief. At least no one has called my office and said that we have given relief to the victims of those bombings who have lost loved ones. Some family members lost two members of their family.

And then we leave in a deep, dark hole 300,000 immigrants who have been paying taxes in this country who plead to allow them to apply for legal citizenship because the INS messed up procedurally their right to apply for citizenship. We have been begging for relief for these individuals who own homes, who pay taxes, whose children are in school, but we have thrown them aside.

Human lives around here does not matter. But if they have got a big checkbook, they can write a check to somebody, you can be sure, to get their stuff in an omnibus bill.

I would tell Members who are considering voting for this that it is not worth voting for and sacrificing principles when they do not know whether they are saving Social Security or whether they are digging a big, deep hole.

If we had gone through this process the way we were supposed to go through it and had the appropriate review of these appropriations bills, maybe we would be able to have a considered process in dealing with this omnibus bill.

I would simply say, Mr. Speaker, that this continuing resolution really needs to be extended so that we can go to the drawing boards and deal with this bill in the way that the American public would like us to do. And that is to include the likes of prescription protection for our seniors; include a patients' bill of rights; to discuss a real hate crimes bill; to provide compensation for the families who lost loved ones in the bombings in Africa; to keep family planning in; and, yes, to take care of our teaching hospitals, the 100,000 teachers and the 50,000 police.

But for God's sake, let us not vote on a ghost of a bill when we do not know whether we are saving Social Security or spending every dime.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to today associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY). This is no way to do the process and the work of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) pointed out, we have nine authorizations in this bill. I would like to focus on one of them.

I have had the misfortune, I guess you might call it, of serving on the Subcommittee of the Committee on Agriculture the last 4 years and went through the process with Steve Gunderson and myself, as ranking member, and tried to bring some legislation to the floor.

At that time, we were told that this was too complicated; we could not legislate it; so we had to give this to the Department and set up a process to figure out how we are going to untangle this complicated system that puts one part of the country against another.

So we went through that process. The results did not please the people that put this forward, so now they have
turned around 180 degrees and they say, well, now it is not appropriate to do this by rule; now we are going to legislate it.

But what people need to understand, in addition to that, the fact that we are legislating 1(a), which is basically the current fluid milk differentials, we are also legislating the Northeast Compact again in this bill, we are taking probably the most important part of the dairy provision and suspending it until December 1, 2000. And that is the new manufacturing price maneuver that was established under this rule that USDA put forward.

Now, those of my colleagues that have dairy farms in their district should understand this, I represent a district that in some places we have more cows than we have people. I have one county that has 63,000 cows. I have more cows in my district than they have in the whole entire Northeast Dairy Compact. And so, we are very concerned about this. But the people that represent dairy farmers understand that the basic formula price that we have got in place has caused some tremendous volatility in the prices for dairy farmers.

We have seen a drop of $6 a hundred-weight a few months ago. We just saw another big drop recently. We are not going to fix this by stalling this whole process and legislating, basically, the status quo on dairy.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACCI).

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, first of all, this is certainly a very terrible process, and it is no way to run a railroad.

There are many things that I would add, or there are many things that I would take out if I were in charge and was able to do it. But that is not the way this process works. And now we are at this particular point.

I think that there are more good things in this package than there are things that cause me concern to vote against it. One, I would like to focus on in particular is dairy.

The policies that we have been hearing talked about as it pertains to dairy does not take away from the issue of recognizing that the USDA’s policy was going to cost small dairy farmers $200 million. It was not going to leave things the way they were. It was going to take $200 million from small dairy farmers who are on the verge of collapse or death and be put out of business. It retains an extension in a dairy compact that was compact between the consumers and the dairy farmers.

If we look at the price differentials, we will see that the price of milk in the Northeast is five cents cheaper than the national average. So that has been a benefit to the farmers and the consumers.

But I also would like to focus on the teachers, the teacher training, the smaller classrooms, more discipline, higher test scores. We are talking about 50,000 more police officers, safer schools, more protection in our community. We are looking at veterans’ health care. And we are talking about corrections in the balanced budget amendment that impacted on hospitals and home health agencies.

So there are many things that I think that when we look at that we could be in opposition towards. And, believe me, there are many things that I would rewrite. But, as I have learned in this process, we will have an opportunity to change those things, to fight for those things, and another day will be in front of us.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the observation that this has been a debate about the continuing resolution rule, and I think it has been properly described.

I think it is a worthy rule. We all know we have to have the continuing resolution. We have provided for contingencies as this, as has been explained by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) and myself. No matter how the Members feel about individual pieces of the appropriations process, I do urge their consideration and in a favorable way for this continuing resolution, which is necessary for us to get on with our business and the rest of the day’s work.

Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LA TOURETTE). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

This will be a 15-minute vote followed by a possible 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 45, not voting 13, as follows:
The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 316, noes 101, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 600]

YEAS—316

YEAS—101

NAYS—101

NAYS—16

NOT VOTING—16

NOT VOTING—13

MOTION TO RECONSIDER THE VOTE OFFERED BY Mr. OBEY. Yes, I did.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay on the table the motion to reconsider.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss) to lay on the table the motion to reconsider the vote offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).
The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes had it.  

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. GOSS  
Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay on the table the motion to reconsider.  

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) to lay on the table the motion to reconsider the vote offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).  

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes had it.  

NOT VOTING—18  
Ackerman (NY)  
Akin (MN)  
Berman (NY)  
Capps (CA)  
Conger (ID)  
Duncan (TX)  

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri, and Messrs. O'BRYAN, LUCAS of Kentucky and PETRI changed their vote from "no" to "aye."  

So the resolution was agreed to.  

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.  

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. OBEY  
Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to reconsider the vote just taken.  

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LA TOURETTE). Did the gentleman vote in favor of the resolution?  
Mr. OBEY. Yes, I did.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a page as follows:

(Hold No. 263)

AYES—25

Baldwin
Barrett (WI)
McKinney
Berry
Dingell
Filer
Green (FL)
Kind (WI)
Mannitol

NOES—395

Abercrombie
Adholtz
Allen
Ashworth
Berman
Blumenauer
Bonior
Brown (FL)
Capuano
Clyburn
Condit
Corry
Coyne
Crescenz
Dent
DelaHunt
DeLauro
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehlers
Frank (MA)
Frost
Gejdenson
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hill (IN)

NOT VOTING—16

Ackerman
Capps
Clay
Conyers
Duncan
Engle

Mr. WAXMAN changed his vote from "aye" to "no".

So the motion to table the motion to reconsider was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.