

the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, as is the right of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, the current continuing resolution expires at the end of the day on Saturday, and a further continuing resolution is necessary to keep the government operating while Congress completes its consideration of the remaining appropriations bills.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 111 is a clean continuing resolution which simply extends the provisions included in House Joint Resolution 109 through October 20.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, we have been working hard to pass remaining appropriations bills as soon as possible. Honest disagreements remain on both sides of the aisle.

However, the House has made progress at resolving these differences over the past 2 weeks, passing the interior, agriculture, energy, and transportation conference reports. We are now very close to completing the appropriations process.

I share the disappointment of many of my colleagues that the negotiations have stretched on this long. However, we have a responsibility to stay the course and pass sensible and fiscally responsible appropriations bills. So, because we refuse to bend our principles, we will stay here in Washington for another week, away from our families, our districts, and our homes.

This fair, clean, continuing resolution will give us the time we need to fulfill our obligations to the American people and finish the appropriations process in an even-handed and conscientious manner.

The rule was unanimously approved by the Committee on Rules yesterday. I urge my colleagues to support it so we may proceed with the general debate and consideration of this bill.

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third concurrent resolution we have done this year. It will push back the appropriations deadline once again for my Republican colleagues, and this time it will push it back to October 20.

The 1974 Budget Act requires that the 13 appropriation bills be signed into law by October 1. The beginning of the fiscal year. But despite repeated promises to the contrary by the Republican leadership, very little appropriation work is finished, even as we speak. Today only two out of 13 appropriation bills have been signed into law, Military Construction and Defense. Three more are on the way to the President,

Transportation, Interior, and Agriculture. The others are in various stages of incubation.

Part of the reason for the lack of progress, Mr. Speaker, is my Republican colleagues' budget, which did great things for the very rich and failed to set aside enough money for middle-class tax cuts or social security preservation or medical prescription drug benefits, or any of the other issues that are so important to the working American families.

My Republican colleagues should have passed a minimum wage increase. They should have passed a bill to help us repair our schools, or passed a bill to hire new teachers. They should have passed the Patients' Bill of Rights, Medicare prescription drug benefits, gun controls, gun safety legislation.

But Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues have had plenty of time to finish these appropriation bills and a lot more, but they did not. Now, in order to keep the Federal government open, we must pass this third continuing resolution.

The administration asked for a shorter continuing resolution in order to get more things done. I believe they were right to do so. But nonetheless, I will support this longer continuing resolution.

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

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

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 111, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 627, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 111) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 111 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 111

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America

in Congress assembled, That Public Law 106-275, is further amended by striking "October 13, 2000" in section 106(c) and inserting in lieu thereof "October 20, 2000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 627, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the continuing resolution before us is the third one for this fiscal year. It would continue the original CR until October 20.

I might say and remind my colleagues that the House has passed all of the appropriations bills earlier this year, but because of conference meetings that needed to be taken care of and meetings with the White House, we have not concluded that business.

However, I am also happy to report that there is considerable movement, I believe, in the other body that we will see today, and hopefully we will be able to conclude this appropriations business next week in the House and in the other body.

So I merely ask the support of the Members to conclude this CR today so we can pass it on to the Senate and then get about our business.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 13½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, what I say is meant in no way to criticize the gentleman from Florida, because he has been one of the few realistic voices on the other side of the aisle trying to point out what the realities are.

But the fact is, this is, what, the third continuing resolution that we have had. The budget is supposed to be done on October 1. We are now getting much closer to November 1 than we are to October 1. What have we seen? We have seen bill after bill emerge from conference which have wound up spending much more money than is in the President's budget.

Those bills have virtually no relationship whatsoever to the budget resolution which was laid out at the beginning of the year. Yet, we have no real progress in meeting the needs that we feel on this side of the aisle with respect to the most crucial issue remaining in the budget, which is education.

We also have seen, although one of the appropriation bills tries to provide a fig leaf on this issue, we have seen this Congress take no action on prescription drugs. We have seen this Congress take no action on the Patients' Bill of Rights. Both of those issues are still pending in one form or another in various appropriation bills. Yet, none of them have any real prospect of being dealt with by this Congress before we adjourn.

Now we are being asked to support another week's extension of the deadline for finishing our business. Frankly, I have about had it. I think the White House has, too. I do not expect to stand on this floor and support any further continuing resolutions for more than one or two days at a time. I do not believe it makes sense for us to continue to drift along in this fashion.

What I sense is happening is that there is apparently a slow but nonetheless stealthy plan to avoid our ever facing the hard votes on education or on the Patients' Bill of Rights or on meaningful reform of Medicare to include a prescription drug benefit. I do not believe that this Congress should leave this city until we have dealt with all three.

I do not say that because these happen to just be pet issues of mine. I say that because America has always been, to me, defined by two things. We have been defined by our passion for individual liberty, and we have also been defined by our determination to see to it that the experiences that we have in this country are shared experiences, and that whether we are in good times or in troubled times, we are all in it together.

That is why we have had traditionally such strong support for American institutions and for the American democratic process by each and every one of our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the reason that education is important and the reason prescription drugs are important and the reason the Patients' Bill of Rights are important is because without actions like that, large segments of our population feel that they have been and are being left out of the blessings and benefits of this society.

There is no society in the world more blessed than is the society of the United States. We have been given more riches, more natural beauty, more geographic insulation from the trouble spots of the world than any other Nation in the history of the globe.

Yet, in my view, this Congress is failing to live up to the traditions of some of the great Congresses in the past in seeing to it that we take these benefits and make certain that everyone has a decent share.

The problem that we have, and it is why I voted against the energy bill, for instance, is because that bill spent a lot of money, but it spent it in no context. There are no rules that describe at this point what will be spent or how far we can go in spending. But we wind up, we wind up still refusing to act on the administration's education priorities.

Now, the majority party has decided that in two areas of education, they are going to put a significant amount of money. One is special education, and the other is Pell grants.

I applaud those two actions. I am fully willing to embrace those priorities. I just wish that the other side would be willing to embrace our priorities.

I would call the attention of Mr. Bush to the actions of this Congress. Mr. Bush in debates the past 2 weeks has talked a lot about education, and he has talked about the bipartisan leadership that he would like to extend to this place. I think bipartisan leadership starts by having effective control of one's own party.

It seems to me that right now we could use some help from Mr. Bush, because this Congress, while it is providing large amounts of money across-the-board in many areas, is continuing to resist the necessary actions to really make progress in reducing class size, to really make progress in training our teachers, to really make progress in providing a significant number of additional after-school centers so that our young children, if they are in a family where they have two parents working outside the home, so they have someplace to go after 2:30 or 3 in the afternoon where they can be under adult supervision and be in an atmosphere where they can learn.

□ 1045

All of these things ought to be embraced by both parties, but we are not seeing them embraced by the majority party in this House.

And so I stand here this morning frustrated because we have a lot of rhetoric that tries to place everyone on the side of education, but this Congress, having a record, under the majority party's leadership, having a record the last 6 years of trying to cut billions of dollars out of previous years' expenditures for education. They are now building on that record by trying to block a further expansion of education initiatives that reflect needed national priorities which the administration has taken as its own. To me, that is the major problem with this continuing resolution today.

I do not see any purpose in kicking the can further down the road on these continuing resolutions if we are not going to get the two or three major things that we need to get out of this Congress in order to call this a successful Congress; one being education, another being a real, rather than a fictional, attack on the problems of our seniors who need prescription drugs, and the third being the passage of a real patients' bill of rights rather than the passage of a bill of goods that masquerades as a patients' bill of rights.

So I will support this continuing resolution, but I do not expect to stand here supporting any further long-term continuing resolutions because, at this point, they do not seem to be doing any good in terms of moving this place forward to recognizing our health care,

our Medicare and our education priorities that, above all, this Congress ought to be addressing.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentleman from Wisconsin has 19½ minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the distinguished minority leader.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, here we are again on another continuing resolution some 11, 12, or 13 days into the fiscal year; and we have not begun to finish our work. I am very disappointed that we come to the floor again to debate another continuing resolution simply to keep the government going. We should have had all of the appropriation bills done 12 days ago.

This Republican Congress has been so busy throwing money at things, helping candidates, and our time and our energy have been so taken up by the contrived 90-10 scheme put out by the other side, that we have been unable to do our most basic work. My biggest fear is that in all of this, education, which is the most important challenge and issue facing our country, is being shortchanged. We should not be taking another full week in which we drift aimlessly and squander, as Republicans would have us do, key opportunities on education.

So we are going to vote for this resolution, but we are putting the Republican leadership on notice. Until we have an opportunity to deal with education, this is the end of the line on comfortable stop-gap measures that keep the government open week by week. Democrats believe that education is priority number one, two and three.

I know that many of my colleagues believe that we are talking about the bare minimum on education; much more important an agenda than we have had on any other issue. We need to give every child the time and attention they need from adults and the life opportunities they deserve. The three items that Democrats believe are the keys to education are the following: tax cuts for school construction, hiring new teachers and reducing class size, and funding key programs like after-school and Pell Grants.

This is the bare minimum of what we need to do. And, unfortunately, while Republicans have been on their spending spree, coming up with false budgets to reduce the debt, education has been shoved to the side by this Congress with a set of priorities that are skewed, to say the least. We want a reasonable, bipartisan tax credit for school construction, and we want funding for emergency repairs. But Republicans are starving that priority because, while they talk about their commitment to education, they do very little

to back up that commitment with the proper resources and the proper commitment to those resources.

We want in Labor-HHS funding that is dedicated to hiring new qualified teachers and reducing class size. But our friends on the other side have created loopholes in the bill so big that the money could be spent for anything.

Finally, as part of this first step this year, we support funding for after-school programs so that our children can get the time and attention they need to become productive, functional law-abiding citizens. Listen to this. We have over 2 million people in jail in this country. They do not pay taxes, they do not vote, they do not raise their families, they do not give to charity. They are not functional citizens. They cost us about \$40,000 per person per year to hold them.

At the same time, we have 2 million jobs in this country that we cannot fill. We are about to pass an H-1B law that would let more foreign immigrants come into the country to fill these high-tech jobs, and all of us support the legislation because we need to fill the jobs.

The answer to those two stark contradictory facts is that we are not doing a good enough job with educating and raising our children so we prevent them from going to jail, so we get them to take these jobs and give them the education and the mental ability that they need to do it. We have to do better and we cannot wait until next year to do better. The opportunity is in front of us now, by giving our public schools and our families the resources and the incentives that they need to lift up every child.

So let us stop squandering our opportunities and let us work together in a bipartisan fashion in these next few days on the most important priority for the American people. Let us get our work done, but let us do it in a bipartisan way. Let us stop spending our time on naming post offices and passing resolutions that have little import or meaning. Let us stop spending our time buying another week of time so that we can do work that we should have done 3 months ago. Let us get to work in a bipartisan way and serve the needs of the education of our children in this bill.

Democrats will no longer support continuing resolutions to keep the government running for weeks on end. We will support a bipartisan education bill that finally helps the children of this country.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me follow up on what our Democratic leader just said. I have to say, as one Member, that I am tired of coming down here and passing these continuing resolutions, in this case for another week, without getting our work done.

The fiscal year began for 2001 on October 1. We do not have a budget. We have the majority of the appropriation bills out there, somewhere, certainly not on the President's desk, that have not been resolved. This Congress, under the Republican leadership, is simply not doing the job.

There is time left. There is no reason why we have to go home or we have to sit here and dilly dally over naming post offices, for example, as the leader said. There are a number of important issues that need to be addressed and that my constituents and the average American care about: health care needs, a patients' bill of rights.

The Republican leadership keeps talking about how they want to deal with the HMO abuses, but we do not see any legislation coming forward that would solve the problem and get something done so that those people who are being denied care or who are being denied a particular operation or are having problems with access to health care have their problems addressed.

We see the Republican presidential candidate talk about prescription drugs, but there is nothing happening here in this Republican Congress to address the problem of prescription drugs. The Democrats have put forward a Medicare prescription drug proposal that would guarantee that every senior citizen, every disabled person would get their prescription drugs under Medicare; but we do not see any action here. The Republicans are in charge. They do not bring this legislation up. They do not sit down in a conference and try to resolve it so that we can actually accomplish something so that our seniors have access to prescription drugs.

Certainly on the education issue, I think the most important for many Americans who are worried about their children and their children's ability to get a quality education in the public schools, the Democrats have put forward proposals saying that we want to spend some money for school modernization, to reduce class size by hiring more teachers, but the Republicans do not respond. Let us get our work done.

We have proposals out there on education. We know that the public schools need help. We know that our local towns need some extra funding in order to upgrade their schools; or if they are having overcrowded classes, to build new schools. We know that by reducing class size kids get a better education and they are functioning in a more disciplined environment; yet the Republicans refuse to bring this up.

I am telling my colleagues again, as just one Democratic Member, I will not vote for these continuing resolutions for a week any more unless the Republican leadership is willing to come down here, get the work done, and pass these appropriations bills and bring up

the health care and education initiatives that the people want. We should simply stand here as Democrats, and any Member, saying that we want action. It is not enough to just talk. We want action, and there is still time to do it and work it out in a bipartisan way.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 6 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as I said several times before, the problem with these continuing resolutions is not necessarily the time that is being taken. There have been other Congresses that have not finished their work on time either. But the question is will we do the really important things that we need to do with that additional time, important things that we should have done a long time ago.

It is true that over the next week we will pass a few additional appropriation bills. After long delay, we have now reached agreement on some of those bills, so a lot of the controversy has been leached out of them. But in the end, we still face a couple of facts. We face the likelihood that if the House proceeds in accordance with the majority's plans, we will wind up having passed appropriation bills about \$45 billion above the level provided in the original budget resolution which the majority party adopted and which has governed virtually all of the turmoil that we have had over the past 9 months on budget issues in this House.

□ 1100

It appears that we will also wind up approaching some \$18 billion to \$20 billion in spending above that requested by the President, much of it for congressional priorities and congressional projects; and yet, as I said earlier, we will not have responded to the major needs still before us in the area of education, we will not see a real prescription drug benefit passed for the American people, and we will not see a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights passed.

We do not want to see this Congress take action on those issues just because they are individually important. We want them all to be dealt with seriously and positively because they are all a necessary part of strengthening the fabric of American society and making this a society that we can all be just a little bit more proud of.

We hear talk about the "end game" for this session. Reporters ask me every day, what is going to happen with the end game? What is the end game?

I would point out that, for the people we are supposed to be helping, this is no game. It is no game for parents who send their children to falling down schools, overcrowded classrooms, in some cases teachers inadequately prepared for the subjects that they are supposed to be teaching and with no

place where the kids can safely go at the end of the school day because the school day does not coincide with parents' workdays.

That is no game. That for those parents is a serious, serious problem that deserves addressing by this Congress.

It is also no game when you run into the senior citizens who I have run into, single women for instance, widows, who may be making about \$20,000 a year in retirement on a fixed income but shelling out 12 to 14 thousand dollars of that for prescription drug costs. Those are real cases. And to them this issue also is no game. And they would, I think, like to think that, with this extra time, we would be producing meaningful action on those items. But I do not see the prospect of that happening given the agenda of the majority party, and that is the real futility in continuing to pass these continuing resolutions.

So, as I said, in order to keep the Government open, we will support this, but no more resolutions of more than 1 or 2 days. If I had my way, we would not pass anything more than a 1-day continuing resolution for the rest of the year if the work is not done by the time this resolution expires. And I do not expect it to be.

So I want to put the majority on notice that we are going to have to operate on a very different set of rules around here if we are going to get things done and get the right things done so we can go home with a straight face and say we have done some really important things for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of the time to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding me time. I regret that I was late getting here to speak.

I reiterate my respect, affection and empathy for the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who has tried to get this process going. During debate of the last two CR's, I talked about that and made similar comments. I am not going to spend so much time on the appropriations bills. We are late. We have been late in the past, as I am sure the chairman has observed earlier.

I rise today at the occasion of the passage of this CR to lament the fact that not only have we not completed the appropriations bills, which I know that the ranking member has spoken eloquently about already, but we have some outstanding critical agenda items that have been discussed in the two Presidential debates and the Vice Pres-

idential debate. There has been a lot of talk about how we are going to work together and how we are going to have bipartisanship so that we can have action.

There has been a lot of talk about the fact that we have not accomplished certain objectives over the past few years. I lament the fact that we have not accomplished those objectives, as well. In my opinion, we have not accomplished them because we had leadership and a majority in this House that did not want to accomplish them.

The Patients' Bill of Rights. We passed a bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights. Not only has the appropriations process been languishing, but Patients' Bill of Rights has been languishing, unpassed, unsigned and, as a result, unhelpful to the American public.

Prescription drugs. The debaters say they are for prescription drugs. Some debaters say, well, why have you not gotten it done? Well, for the same reason we have not gotten the appropriations bills done and we need a CR, because the majority party has not moved them forward.

We want prescription drugs under Medicare for every senior guaranteed them. And by the way, no government HMO, as some ads and the statement of the chairman seem to reflect. We have not passed a prescription drug bill, just as we have not passed the overwhelming majority of the appropriations bills. Why? Because the majority has not sent them to the President for signature.

Education, on everybody's radar screen, is the number one issue in America because the public knows that educating our children is critical to the future of our Nation.

The President stood, Mr. Speaker, on the dias in front of us and said, we need to provide more classrooms, we need to provide more teachers, and we need to provide smaller classes, particularly for our young children in kindergarten to third grade. Why? So they can compete in a world-class economy and be world-class citizens.

Both candidates talk about that. But the Labor-Health bill still languishes with those provisions. Why? Because the majority has not come to grips with passing legislation to ensure there is school construction funding for more classrooms, safer classrooms.

We have not provided for the additional teachers that the President asked for in January. Here we are 9 months later. Why? For the same reason the appropriation bills languish and have not been signed by the President of the United States.

Yes, the President has vetoed one appropriation bill. He sent it back to Congress. That bill is now pending passage in the Senate. But most of these bills have never gotten to the President, not because of the chairman, but

because the other side has not come to grips with exercising its majority to pass the needed legislation.

So whether it is Patients', whether it is prescription drugs, whether it is more classrooms for our children and more teachers so that to ensure a quality education, those bills have not been passed. Yes, I will vote for this CR. And, like the ranking member, I will implore our majority to make sure that the next CR is for 1 day only so that we get our work done. We must press forward not only with these appropriation bills but with the critical agenda put before us by the President of the United States 9 months ago.

Mr. Speaker, let's hope that the third time is a charm. Let's hope that this third continuing resolution gives us the time we need to finally complete our work on the fiscal year 2001 appropriations bills.

Let's hope the majority leader, Mr. ARMEY, is correct when he says that we are within "an inch or two from closure" of the appropriations process.

Because from where I'm standing—and I think the vast majority of members might agree with me on this—we've still got a mile to go, it's an uphill hike, and we've got legislative riders dragging us back down.

The President has signed only three appropriations bills into law.

He is expected to sign two others—agriculture and transportation. But that leaves eight bills undone, including energy and water, which was vetoed.

Now, I appreciate the Majority Leader's optimism. You might call it irrational exuberance. However, I think most Members of this body tend to agree with my friend from South Carolina, Mr. SANFORD.

He is quoted in Rollcall this morning as saying: "Anarchy reigns at the moment. Nobody is quite sure what comes next."

Over on the other side of Capitol Hill, Senator MCCAIN didn't mince words either. He commented: "It's just what I predicted—the biggest train wreck in history."

Mr. Speaker, as I've said repeatedly, the blame for this budget debacle does not lie at the feet of the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, my friend Mr. YOUNG. I empathize with the Chairman. He has done a very good job under trying circumstances.

But his hands have been tied in this process, specifically by the GOP's unrealistic budget resolution that made a mockery of our appropriations process this year.

And today, we're living with the fallout.

As my friend, Mr. SPRATT, the ranking Member of the Budget Committee, noted earlier this week, this Republican Congress—which pretends to be fiscally disciplined—has already appropriated \$10.6 billion more in budget authority in five bills sent to the President than the President requested for those bills.

Our sticking point continues to be the substantive riders, which are a staple of GOP budget strategy:

Barring the EPA from issuing stricter limits on arsenic levels in drinking water;

Preventing the EPA from requiring polluters to clean up the contaminated sediments that they have deposited on river bottoms; and

Blocking the Interior Department from imposing new environmental controls on the hard-rock mining industry.

I completely agree with Chairman YOUNG, who was quoted on the hill yesterday as saying: "The thing that is holding us up are the non-appropriations issues that should have been taken care of in authorizing committees. If we only dealt with appropriations issues, we would have been finished."

Yes, we would.

But instead we are in a situation where the majority whip, Mr. DELAY, says he doesn't "have a clue" when we will adjourn. This morning, he is quoted as saying that this budget fight could "go to the end of October. It could go up to November 6."

Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has shown time and again that it would rather block than lead. On a patients' bill of rights. On a Medicare prescription drug benefit. On a minimum wage increase.

The American people have a right to demand more than the bare minimum.

And, with yet another continuing resolution, this Republican majority proves that it can't even give them that.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am really interested in this lengthy debate about all kinds of things other than the CR. I appreciate the support that has been indicated for passage of the CR because we need to do this. It will give us the additional time that we need to complete the work.

But I want to remind my colleagues, who are my friends, Mr. Speaker, the House did its job. Three months ago we completed our work on the appropriations bills. But that is only part of the process. The other part of the process is reconciling the differences between the House and the Senate. That is the constitutional system. And then we have to reconcile the differences between the Congress and the President.

Now, we have seen the President sign some of our appropriations bills and we have seen him veto an appropriations bill, and we worked with the administration closely to try to repair that bill to the point that he would be willing to sign it. And I think in a matter of several days that will happen and we will have the opportunity to pass that legislative package back to the President.

The minority party and the majority party at the Member level and the staff level have worked together. They have been at the table at the staff level and Member level on all of these issues between our body and the other body and including the White House. We had representatives from the Clinton-Gore administration sitting with us to try to work out the differences. And, Mr. Speaker, there have been many differences. But slow but sure, we are resolving those differences.

But I am not going to take the time to respond to all of the political statements that we have heard today because I listened to the very distin-

guished minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), stand there in the well and appeal for a bipartisan, work-together attitude.

Well, I am all for that. And I think that the gentleman who just spoke would admit that my entire effort here as chairman is to work together with both parties to get the best product that we can get. So I want to stick with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT).

I am not going to become partisan. I am not going to be political. I am just going to say we need to pass this CR today and we need to get serious about resolving these differences that exist between the Congress and the President.

And then I would like to close on this thought, Mr. Speaker: It is not that I do not enjoy a good political debate, because I do. I really like politics. And outside of the House, where we are here to do the people's business, people above politics, back in the campaigns I really enjoy the political debate and the political exchanges. But I am in a different mood today. Because early today, America came under attack from terrorists.

An American naval ship was attacked by a suicide mission that blew a gaping hole in the side of the USS *Cole*, an *Arleigh Burke* class destroyer. It flooded the main engine room. At least four American sailors lost their lives. There are 12 additional sailors missing or unaccounted for, and there are more than 30 wounded. Some of them are critically wounded.

America came under attack from terrorists. It is time that we try to put aside as much of the partisan politics as we can and come together recognizing that America, Republicans and Democrats and Independents and whatever the parties might be, America came under attack today and we cannot stand for that. We have got to make it known to the world that we are not going to allow our country, our military, our sailors who are on board those ships to come under attack and not respond.

And so, that is my mood today, Mr. Speaker. I want to get this CR out of here so that we can get to the people's business.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the chairman, who is one of the real leaders in our House and in this Nation on defense policy.

We lament the loss of those four brave sailors. We pray for the injured, the missing, and for their families. And we reiterate what the chairman's sentiment that there will be no division, there will be no partisanship, there will be no disagreement on standing to-

gether in defense of our forces around the world to maintain freedom and peace.

I thank the gentleman for his comments and join with him in that sentiment.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his comments. And I know what is in his heart. The gentleman and I have been friends for a long time and have had some differences but a lot of agreements. I appreciate the comments that he just made. Because when America comes under attack, it is time for all of us to come together to recognize that attack and do what has to be done.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 627, the joint resolution is considered read for amendment and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 2, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 527]

YEAS—407

Abercrombie	Blagojevich	Castle
Ackerman	Bliley	Chabot
Aderholt	Blumenauer	Chambliss
Allen	Blunt	Chenoweth-Hage
Andrews	Boehert	Clay
Archer	Boehner	Clayton
Armey	Bonilla	Clement
Bachus	Bonior	Clyburn
Baker	Bono	Coble
Baldacci	Borski	Coburn
Baldwin	Boswell	Collins
Ballenger	Boyd	Combest
Barcia	Brady (PA)	Condit
Barr	Brady (TX)	Conyers
Barrett (NE)	Brown (FL)	Cook
Barrett (WI)	Brown (OH)	Cooksey
Bartlett	Bryant	Costello
Barton	Burr	Cox
Bass	Burton	Coyne
Becerra	Buyer	Cramer
Bentsen	Callahan	Crane
Bereuter	Calvert	Crowley
Berkley	Camp	Cubin
Berman	Canady	Cummings
Berry	Cannon	Cunningham
Biggert	Capps	Danner
Bilbray	Capuano	Davis (FL)
Bilirakis	Cardin	Davis (IL)
Bishop	Carson	Davis (VA)

Deal
DeGette
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fletcher
Foley
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gooding
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson

Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E.B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecza
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Larson
Latham
LaTourrette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCreery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meeke (FL)
Meeke (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Packard
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul

Payne
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpton
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt

Tierney
Toomey
Townes
Traffant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velázquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler

Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—2

Baird DeFazio

NOT VOTING—23

Baca
Boucher
Campbell
Eshoo
Forbes
Franks (NJ)
Green (TX)
Horn
Kaptur
Klink
Lazio
Maloney (CT)
Martinez
McCollum
McIntosh
Meehan
Mica
Nadler
Oxley
Reynolds
Stark
Talent
Wise

□ 1135

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote No. 527. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 527, Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, I was on legislative business and was not able to make the rollcall. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 528, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for rollcall votes 522, 523, and 524. The reason is somewhat obvious, I think. I spent that time in the emergency room.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall votes 522, 523, and 524.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2415, BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 624 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 624

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us provides for the consideration of H.R. 2415, legislation that will reform our Nation's bankruptcy laws. This rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report may be considered as read.

The underlying legislation is important legislation that fundamentally reforms the existing bankruptcy system into a needs-based system. I am very proud of the tireless efforts of the Members of both the House and the Senate who have worked to reach this bipartisan agreement to ensure that our bankruptcy laws operate fairly, efficiently and free of abuse.

There is a strong support for bankruptcy reform. The House version of this bill passed with more than 300 votes earlier this year. The Senate passed their version with 88 votes. There is a great need for this legislation. A record 1.42 million personal bankruptcy filings were recorded in 1998. This is a stunning increase of 500 percent since 1980. Despite an unprecedented time of economic prosperity, low unemployment and rising disposable income, personal bankruptcies are rising, costing over \$40 billion in the past year.

Without serious reform of our bankruptcy law, these trends promise to grow each year costing business and consumers even more in the form of losses and higher costs of credit.

Mr. Speaker, the bankruptcy reform that we will consider is based upon two important tenets: number one, the bankruptcy system should provide the amount of debt relief that an individual needs, no more and no less; and, point two, bankruptcies should be the last resort and financial crisis, not the first resort using it as a financial planning tool.

A record 1.4 million personal bankruptcies were filed in 1998. That is one out of every 75 households in America. The debts that remained unpaid as a result of those bankruptcies cost each American family that did pay their bills over \$500 a year in the form of higher costs for credit, goods, and services. Unfortunately, the debt was eventually passed on to consumers last year and the cost to consumers is what bankruptcy filers have added on to the system.

□ 1145

That is why it is so important that we pass real bankruptcy reform.

Opponents of this bill have tried to divert the discussion away from the