

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, November 2, 2000

The House met at 6 p.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

This evening as we gather, Lord God, we remember all those who gave us life. We remember those who enrich the life of this Nation with love and dedication, generosity and compassion. We recall the Members of this House and the dear members of family and friendship who have gone the way of all life on Earth.

May those who have preceded us in the ways of faith be rewarded for their just deeds and the lively peace and joy they brought to this world.

As we reflect upon those whose memory moves us this evening, especially those who have died during the 106th Congress, we seek the consolation You alone can give and the insight born of faith.

Renewed in the bonds that unite us forever, grant us wisdom in the midst of present difficulties and the bright promise of a just reward on that day when all come to rejoice in You who live now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NORWOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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 H.J. Res. 123 and that I may

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida? There was no objection.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 662, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 123) 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 123 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 123

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 the date specified in section 106(c) and inserting "November 3, 2000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 662, 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 merely to point out that this is a 1-day continuing resolution. In addition to having this resolution before the House, after the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) makes his opening statement, I will be asking unanimous consent to consider an amendment that I have at the desk.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose there is virtually no reason for anyone to say anything, given what the reality is around here. But I would, nonetheless, like to make a few observations about why we are going through this surreal exercise this week, this evening, tomorrow and for God knows how long.

We were told at the beginning of the year by the majority party leadership that they were going to restore regular order to the House. Then this House proceeded to pass a phony budget resolution and a series of phony appropriation bills which pretended to fit within that budget resolution.

It did that, not because of any fault of any of the majority members of the Committee on Appropriations; we did it because they, in fact, had no choice but to proceed under that phony budget resolution.

The result is that, for 10 months, this House pretended to the public that it

was going to spend about \$40 billion less than virtually everyone in this House on both sides of the aisle knew we would in the end wind up spending.

The purpose of passing those fraudulently shrunken appropriation bills was to open up enough room in that phony budget so that the majority leadership could pretend that there was enough room in that budget for the huge tax cuts which they then proceeded to pass, the majority of benefits which went to those in our society who make \$300,000 a year or more.

The leadership of the majority preached bipartisanship; but in fact, they blocked bipartisan majorities from passing the Patients' Bill of Rights. They held the minimum wage hostage to tax benefits that were nine times as large as the benefits afforded to workers under those minimum wage increases. They even refused to reform the so-called Freedom to Farm Act, which is the single biggest failure of farm policy in this country since the days of Ezra Taft Benson, and that is going some.

Lastly, the leadership of the majority party blocked a bipartisan conference on the Labor, Health and Education bill that would have taken us a long way toward reducing class size, strengthening teacher training, providing larger Pell Grants for struggling middle-income families trying to send their kids to college, providing us some 5,000 additional after-school learning centers for kids so that they do not have to go home at night to an empty house because both parents are working outside the home.

Since that bill was blown up, it has been apparently the goal of the majority party leadership to leave without ever bringing to a vote that bipartisan conference report.

Apparently the majority caucus is split. I am told by a number of you that, if this bill goes into a lame-duck session, that there are a good number of our friends on the majority side who would like to scale back significantly the size of those education and other increases in that Labor-Health-Education bill.

In my judgment as someone who has served here for over 30 years, the chaotic results of the policy pursued by the leadership left us at the end of the fiscal year with only two of the 13 appropriation bills that were supposed to be passed actually being finished by the House and the Senate. The House passed all 13 of its appropriation bills, but the Senate did not.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

So we were left with only two of those 13 bills. We were left with only two of those 13 bills passed. Both bills that were passed had been signed by the President. So none of the delays associated with the other 11 bills were in any way the responsibility of the White House.

Now, the majority leadership wants to go home. We all want to go home.

I will say to the gentleman interrupting that no one in this House has worked harder than I have. I will compare my record to yours anytime.

I think I have the floor, Mr. Speaker. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair requests that various conversations going around the Chamber will be removed to the cloakroom.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for obtaining order, and I thank most Members of the House for their courtesy.

What I was about to say is that the majority leadership would like us to go home, and we would all like to go home, but there is apparently a significant difference between the wishes of the majority leadership in the Senate and the majority leadership here.

I honestly believe that you want us in the minority to give you cover for your failure to produce on the whole range of legislative items by voting to get Congress out of town before we have all done our duty. I think that duty includes passing the Patients' Bill of Rights, passing a bill that provides prescription drugs under Medicare, passing a bill that provides the minimum wage increase for the least among us.

So now we are caught in what one reporter today called this Potemkin charade. It is being pretended that there is work being done here because, apparently, what the majority leadership wants to do is to keep the lights on even though the House is empty and keep the lights on to pretend that there is activity in the kitchen, when in fact there is not. The stove is off. The oven is empty. The oven is cold.

No major legislation, save perhaps one water project bill is in the works. What an unhappy, pitiful end to this session.

I want to say to my friends on the majority side of the aisle, I like and respect virtually every single one of you. Some of you I do not know as well as others. But when I think of the people I have known in my life, there is no more decent person than the gentleman sitting in the front row here, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), or the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) or the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) or the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) or a number of others of you. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) I saw sitting here; we have been friends for years. I cherish some of the friendships that I have had with people on both sides of the aisle.

□ 1815

But what I despise is what this kind of chaotic governance in this House has done to this institution and to the legislative process. And most of all what I despise is what this House has failed to do to represent and help the people we are supposed to be representing. When I see what this institution has failed to do, that is when I am truly saddened and appalled.

I do not make this statement out of any sense of personal dislike for any one of you. But sometimes parties or institutions do things collectively which they would never do individually, and I believe this year that has happened in this place. And that is why this Congress, in my sad judgment, regardless of the meaningless votes that will occur the next 2 days, because this session is over any way you slice it, we just have an inability to admit it, so this Congress will go down as one of the lesser footnotes in history and it very richly deserves it.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOUNG OF FLORIDA

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment that I have placed at the desk be considered adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

Insert before the period at the end the following:

, and by adding, at the end, the following new section:

"Sec. 120. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 107, \$7,100,000 shall be available for obligation by the Administrator of General Services for expenses necessary to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note)."

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I think the purpose is self-evident, but I wonder if the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) would be kind enough to take just 1 minute so that the Members understand what we are doing.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the amount of \$7,100,000 was in the Treasury-Postal bill for the purpose of the transitioning to a new administration. \$5.27 million was for the implementation of the transition of the new administration, the new President. \$1.83 million was for the incumbent President to exit the White House and to exit the administration.

Since that bill was vetoed that money is not available. This amend-

ment authorizes the same amount of money that was in the Treasury-Postal bill. It is important that we do this because the new administration has to begin work immediately after the election by preparing for the transition, interviewing potential appointments and staffers. There is travel involved. There is vetting of major appointments. This begins the day after election day, so it is important that we do this.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. We certainly have no objection.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

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

The joint resolution is considered as having been read for amendment.

By order of the House today, the amendment is adopted.

Pursuant to House Resolution 662, 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 passage of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. PETRI. 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 310, nays 7, not voting 116, as follows:

[Roll No. 592]

YEAS—310

Abercrombie	Bliley	Cannon
Aderholt	Blunt	Cardin
Andrews	Boehert	Carson
Archer	Boehner	Castle
Armey	Bonilla	Chabot
Baca	Bonior	Chambliss
Bachus	Bono	Chenoweth-Hage
Baker	Borski	Clyburn
Baldacci	Boswell	Coble
Baldwin	Boyd	Combest
Ballenger	Brady (PA)	Condit
Barcia	Brady (TX)	Cook
Barr	Brown (OH)	Cooksey
Barrett (NE)	Bryant	Cox
Bartlett	Burr	Coyne
Bass	Burton	Cramer
Berkley	Buyer	Crane
Biggert	Callahan	Cubin
Bilirakis	Camp	Cunningham
Blagojevich	Canady	Davis (FL)

Davis (VA)	Klecza	Rangel
Deal	Knollenberg	Regula
DeGette	Kolbe	Reynolds
DeLauro	Kucinich	Roemer
DeLay	Kuykendall	Rogan
DeMint	LaHood	Rogers
Deutsch	Lampson	Rohrabacher
Dixon	Largent	Ros-Lehtinen
Doggett	Larson	Rothman
Doolittle	Latham	Roukema
Doyle	LaTourette	Roybal-Allard
Dreier	Leach	Royce
Duncan	Lee	Ryan (WI)
Edwards	Levin	Ryun (KS)
Engel	Lewis (CA)	Sabo
English	Lewis (GA)	Sanchez
Eshoo	Lewis (KY)	Sanders
Evans	Linder	Sandlin
Everett	Lipinski	Sanford
Farr	LoBiondo	Sawyer
Filner	LoGren	Saxton
Fletcher	Lowey	Schakowsky
Foley	Lucas (KY)	Scott
Fossella	Lucas (OK)	Sensenbrenner
Frelinghuysen	Luther	Serrano
Frost	Maloney (CT)	Sessions
Gallegly	Manzullo	Shadegg
Gekas	Markey	Shaw
Gibbons	Martinez	Sherman
Gilchrest	Mascara	Sherwood
Gillmor	Matsui	Shimkus
Gilman	McCarthy (MO)	Shows
Gonzalez	McCarthy (NY)	Shuster
Goode	McCrery	Simpson
Goodlatte	McDermott	Sisisky
Gordon	McGovern	Skeen
Goss	McHugh	Skelton
Graham	McInnis	Slaughter
Green (TX)	McIntyre	Smith (NJ)
Green (WI)	McKeon	Smith (TX)
Gutierrez	McKinney	Snyder
Gutknecht	McNulty	Souder
Hall (TX)	Metcalf	Spence
Hastert	Mica	Stearns
Hastings (WA)	Millender-Hayes	Strickland
Hayes	McDonald	Stump
Hayworth	Miller (FL)	Sununu
Herger	Miller, Gary	Sweeney
Hill (IN)	Minge	Tanner
Hilleary	Mink	Tauscher
Hilliard	Moakley	Tauzin
Hobson	Moore	Taylor (MS)
Hoeffel	Moran (KS)	Taylor (NC)
Hoekstra	Moran (VA)	Terry
Holden	Murtha	Thomas
Holt	Myrick	Thompson (CA)
Hooley	Nadler	Thompson (MS)
Horn	Napolitano	Thornberry
Hostettler	Ney	Thune
Houghton	Northup	Thurman
Hoyer	Norwood	Tiahrt
Hulshof	Nussle	Tierney
Hutchinson	Obey	Toomey
Hyde	Olver	Traficant
Inslee	Ortiz	Udall (CO)
Isakson	Oxley	Udall (NM)
Istook	Packard	Upton
Jackson (IL)	Pallone	Vitter
Jackson-Lee (TX)	Pascrell	Walden
Jefferson	Pastor	Walsh
Jenkins	Paul	Wamp
John	Pease	Watkins
Johnson (CT)	Pelosi	Watt (NC)
Johnson, E. B.	Peterson (MN)	Weldon (PA)
Johnson, Sam	Peterson (PA)	Weller
Jones (NC)	Petri	Whitfield
Kanjorski	Pickering	Wicker
Kaptur	Pombo	Wilson
Kelly	Porter	Wolf
Kildee	Portman	Woolsey
Kind (WI)	Quinn	Wu
King (NY)	Radanovich	Wynn
Kingston	Rahall	Young (AK)
	Ramstad	Young (FL)

NAYS—7

Berry	Ford	Stenholm
Capuano	LaFalce	
DeFazio	Phelps	

NOT VOTING—116

Ackerman	Barton	Berman
Allen	Becerra	Bilbray
Baird	Bentsen	Bishop
Barrett (WI)	Bereuter	Blumenauer

Boucher	Gephardt	Pickett
Brown (FL)	Goodling	Pitts
Calvert	Granger	Pomeroy
Campbell	Greenwood	Price (NC)
Capps	Hall (OH)	Pryce (OH)
Clay	Hansen	Reyes
Clayton	Hastings (FL)	Riley
Clement	Hefley	Rivers
Coburn	Hill (MT)	Rodriguez
Collins	Hinchee	Rush
Conyers	Hinojosa	Salmon
Costello	Hunter	Scarborough
Crowley	Jones (OH)	Schaffer
Cummings	Kasich	Shays
Danner	Kennedy	Smith (MI)
Davis (IL)	Kilpatrick	Smith (WA)
Delahunt	Delahunt	Spratt
Diaz-Balart	Lantos	Stabenow
Dickey	Lazio	Stark
Dicks	Maloney (NY)	Stupak
Dingell	McCollum	Talent
Dooley	McIntosh	Tancredo
Dunn	Meehan	Towns
Ehlers	Meek (FL)	Turner
Ehrlich	Meeks (NY)	Velázquez
Emerson	Menendez	Visclosky
Etheridge	Miller, George	Waters
Ewing	Mollohan	Watts (OK)
Fattah	Morella	Waxman
Forbes	Neal	Weiner
Fowler	Nethercutt	Weldon (FL)
Frank (MA)	Oberstar	Wexler
Franks (NJ)	Ose	Weygand
Ganske	Owens	Wise
Gejdenson	Payne	

□ 1845

Mr. WELLER and Mr. HALL of Texas changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I was delayed en route. The plane just arrived. As a consequence I got in the House just a few minutes after the vote was closed. Had I been here, I would have voted in the affirmative.

Stated for:

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 592, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” in support of H.J. Res. 123.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, I was away from the House on personal business. Accordingly, I was unable to cast certain rollcall votes. If I were present, I would have voted the following:

“Yes” on rollcall vote 586 on approving the Journal; “yes” on rollcall vote 587, H.J. Res. 122; “no” on rollcall vote 588; “yes” on rollcall vote 589; I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 590, H.R. 4577, a motion to instruct conferees; and I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 591, H.R. 4577.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, on October 19, I was away from the House on a personal matter, and I was unable to cast a rollcall vote. However, if I were present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 540, H.R. 4541, the motion to pass the Commodity Futures Modernization Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 30 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 583. In addition, yesterday due to pressing business back in my district, I missed rollcall vote 591. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 583 and 591.

DEMOCRATIC LEADER MISSES PRECEDING VOTE

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we returned tonight once again to do the business of the people in an effort, even at this late date, to put people before politics. How sad it was to note in the rollcall vote that just preceded that our colleague from Missouri, the minority leader, the Democratic leader of this House, was absent. I hope there is no personal concern that took him home. In fact, we understand that he may be home campaigning in stark contrast to his public comments.

Mr. Speaker, tonight this is the situation that confronts us. Most of us are here working in Washington, D.C., working. But I would show you the Midwest, the great State of Missouri. Our friend, the Democratic leader, who said it was so important to stay here and do our work, it appears he is home campaigning, Mr. Speaker; and our friend, the President of the United States, is campaigning in California. Curiouser and curiouser the conduct of those in whom the public trust is placed.

THIS SESSION IS OVER

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take issue with the last speaker. It is very obvious that the Republican leadership has no intention of doing any more work here in the House of Representatives. There is barely a majority here to even vote on any measure. The Senate has already left. The other body has already left. To suggest in any way to the American people after having spent 2 years without passing a Patients' Bill of Rights, without passing a Medicare prescription drug benefit, without doing anything with regard to education initiatives that somehow this House or the other body are going to do some work over the next few days before the election is patently absurd.

Let us not kid the American people. This session is over. I am here and a lot of us are here, but we know very well that no work could possibly be done and the Republicans have failed to accomplish anything for the American