Now, Mr. Speaker, President Bush has issued a list of principles. We firmly believe that the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood bill meets those principles, especially after the addition of the amendments that were passed almost unanimously in the Senate.

The President has rightly been concerned about increases in costs. We think the bill is not affordable. The estimates by the Congressional Budget Office confirm that. Since the President during his campaign spoke glowingly of the patient protection bills in Texas, this is what we wrote our bill after. When I look at those seven points that the President said he would need to have for his signature, our bill meets those requirements.

Now, we are more than happy to work with President Bush on this, and our door is open. Our colleagues of our group have continued to discuss these items with the President. But it is time to move. It is time to get this legislation through the House and get it into the conference. We will be more than happy to continue discussions with the President on these.

I believe President Bush wants to see a Patients’ Bill of Rights signed into law and this is the bill that meets his requirements, and it would just be a darn shame not to end up at the end of the day with a bill that meets those requirements, as we think our bill does.

Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House promised that we would have a vote on this patient protection bill before we left for our August recess. In fact, we were supposed to have this debate last week. Then it was postponed to this week. The word is out now that we may not have this vote next week either before we go home for August recess.

I would just remind my colleagues that every day HMOs around this country are making health decisions that in many cases are life and death. Those decisions are affecting our family members, our friends, our colleagues, our constituents back home. There is no excuse for not moving ahead and allowing the will of the House to work.

This is supposed to be a democratic institution. Let us have a fair debate, with a fair rule. Sure, there can be amendments. And let us let the will of the people work, and let us move forward in a prompt manner to help patients and our friends get a fair shake from their HMOs and their health insurers in this time of need.

I expect that the people will keep their word on this. If we do not have this debate next week, that would be a shame. We should at least move promptly in early September.

But I will tell you, to not bring this bill up because you just cannot have your way, because you do not have the votes, is what I would call a pocket veto without a debate, and I do not believe that is the democratic way that we should run this House.

Mr. Speaker, let us move to a prompt and fair debate on this bill, and let us get on with the people’s business.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LINDER (at the request of Mr. ARMERY) for after 5 p.m. today and the rest of the week on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. OLIVER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. DeFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Davis of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Langevin, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Brown of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Jones of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Hoyer, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. Brown of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Matheson, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. Carson of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEmINT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. Horn, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Nussle, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 27, 2001, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the speaker’s table and referred as follows:

3094. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled, “Parity of Pay and Benefits for Active Duty and Reserve Service,” to the Committee on Armed Services.

3095. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that certain major defense acquisition programs have breached the unit cost by more than 25 percent, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.


3097. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans’ Affairs, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve (HIN: 2900–AK40) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.


3100. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the AGENCY’s final rule—Revision to the California State Implementation Plan, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Lake County Air Quality Management District, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 210–0285; FRL–7013–4] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3101. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the AGENCY’s final rule—Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Pinal-Gila Counties Air Quality Control District and Pima County Air Quality Control District [AZ 099–0039; FRL–7013–3] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3102. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the AGENCY’s final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permits Program in Alaska [FRL–7012–9] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3103. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the AGENCY’s final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 198–0145; FRL–7012–5] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3118. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Additions to the Procurement List—received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3119. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–100, “Public School Enrollment Integrity Temporary Amendment Act of 2001” received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3120. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2000; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3121. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Financial Operations, transmitting the Office's FY 2001-FY 2007 Strategic Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3122. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office’s final rule—Recruitment and Re-location Bonuses and Retention Allowances (RIN: 2120–AA64) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3123. A letter from the Chief Administrative Office, Attorney General, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period April 1, 2001, through June 30, 2001 as compiled by the Attorney General’s office pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a (H. Doc. No. 107–108); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

3124. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS352L2 Helicopters [Docket No. 01–0508; Amendment 123–17] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.


3128. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report in accordance with the requirements of Section 2006(e) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, “Present and Projected Trends in Driver Licensing Information Programs and Assessment of Technologies”; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3129. A letter from the Deputy Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Service’s final rule—Recognition of Gain on Certain Transfers to Certain Foreign Trusts and Estates [TD 8956] (RIN: 1545–A075) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.


3131. A letter from the Chair, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s final rule—Recognition of Gain on Certain Transfers to Certain Foreign Trusts and Estates [TD 8956] (RIN: 1545–A075) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3132. A letter from the Chair, Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Report on the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program (the Ticket Program); to the Committee on Ways and Means.


Mr. YOUNG of Florida: Committee on Appropriations, report on the Revised Sub-allocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2002 (Rpt. 107–165). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 988. A bill to designate the United States courthouse, United States Courthouse located at 40 Central Street, New York, New York, as the “Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse” (Rept. 107–166). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 193. Resolution requesting that the President focus appropriate attention on the issues of neighborhood policing, anti-terrorism, and reduction of school crime by delivering speeches, convening meetings, and directing