CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
September 6, 2001

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as cosponsor from H. Con. Res. 144.

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 335 due to my recovery from hip surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call the joint resolution.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Speaker, pur-suant to the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 51) approving the extension of nondiscriminatory, i.e., Normal Trade Relations treatment, for the products of Viet-nam.

The Administration supports H.J. Res. 51, which would approve the extension of nondiscriminatory, i.e., Normal Trade Relations (NTR), treatment for the products of Viet-nam.

The Administration has continued to work with Vietnam to incrementally normalize our bilateral political, economic, and con-sular relationship. U.S. engagement helps promote the development of a prosperous Vietnam and integrates it into world markets and regional organizations, which, in turn, helps contribute to regional stability. In addition, U.S. investment has secured Vietnamese cooperation and engagement on a range of important U.S. policy goals, including achieving the fullest possible accounting of POW/MIA’s from the Vietnam War. U.S. engagement also gives hope of produc- ing gains in respect for human rights as well.

The U.S. has extended a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam for the past 3 years. This waiver, which is a prerequisite for NTR trade status, has permitted U.S. businesses oper- ating in Vietnam to make use of U.S. Gov- ernment programs supporting U.S. exports to and investments in Vietnam. U.S. busi- ness views Vietnam the thirteenth most pop-u-lous country in the world, as an important potential market.

On June 8th, President Bush submitted the U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) to Congress for its approval as part of extending NTR to Vietnam. This BTA binds Vietnam to an unprecedented array of re-forms, including tariff reductions for key U.S. exports, elimination of non-tariff bar- riers, intellectual property rights protection, market access for America’s Service Indus-tries, protections for American investors and mechanisms to promote the rule of law. The BTA’s entry into force completes a normalization process that has spanned four Administrations. Completion of this process will facilitate important bilateral engage- ment on other issues of concern.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORING

Any law that would reduce receipts is sub- ject to the pay-as-you-go requirements of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act. According to H.J. Res. 51, which would reduce revenues, will be subject to the pay-as-you-go requirement. The Administra- tion will work with Congress to ensure that any unintended sequester of spending does not occur under current law or the enact- ment of any other proposals that meet the President’s objectives to reduce the debt, fund priority initiatives, and grant tax relief to all income tax paying Americans.