

it will be even more difficult, if not impossible, if we allow the surpluses that we currently have to be raided for other government spending. To this end, H.R. 2 creates a lockbox by creating a point of order against any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that would raid either the Social Security or Medicare Trust Fund. This lockbox ensures that the Trust Fund surpluses will only be used to further pay down our national debt or to strengthen these vital programs for our children and grandchildren. This is a modest, common-sense step to help preserve social security benefits for future retirees.

We have an obligation to keep our promises to our senior citizens. They have paid into Social Security and Medicare over the course of their working lives in the expectation that these benefits would be there to help support them in their later years. We do them a severe injustice if financial mismanagement on our part robs them of the security they deserve. By approving H.R. 2, we will show the American people that we remain committed to saving these invaluable programs. It is for this reason that I urge my colleagues to lend it their full support.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Lockbox Act.

Passage of this legislation will make certain that the Social Security and Medicare surpluses are protected in a "lock-box" and are not affected by spending increases and tax cuts. However, the Medicare surplus is not taken off-budget by this bill and therefore is not ensured the same protection as the Social Security surplus under current budget rules. This is a critical flaw in this bill and I do not believe that H.R. 2 alone will solve the long-term challenges facing Medicare. Nevertheless, I support passage of the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Lockbox Act of 2001 and will remain committed to protecting these surpluses.

I believe it is absolutely essential that we maintain our fiscal discipline and continue paying down our debt. We must provide resources to deal with long term problems facing Social Security and Medicare, while making room for targeted tax cuts and investments in priority programs.

I am also proud to have joined my colleagues, MIKE ROSS and DENNIS MOORE, in introducing H.R. 560, a bill that would take Medicare off-budget, giving it the same protected status as Social Security, and would lock away Medicare surpluses unless they are to be used for current Medicare programs. While I support the bill before us, our bill has a much stronger enforcement mechanism and would be even more difficult, if not impossible, to violate.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

□ 1800

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 6 p.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 554, RAIL PASSENGER DISASTER FAMILY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-1) on the resolution (H. Res. 36) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 554) to establish a program, coordinated by the National Transportation Safety Board, of assistance to families of passengers involved in rail passenger accidents, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### CONGRATULATING PRIME MINISTER-ELECT OF ISRAEL, ARIEL SHARON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, House Resolution 34, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 34, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 1, answered "present" 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 12]

YEAS—410

Abercrombie	Baca	Ballenger	Fletcher	Lantos
Aderholt	Bachus	Barcia	Foley	Largent
Akin	Baird	Barr	Ford	Larsen (WA)
Allen	Baker	Barrett	Fossella	Larson (CT)
Andrews	Baldacci	Bartlett	Frank	Latham
Army	Baldwin	Barton	Frelinghuysen	LaTourette
			Frost	Leach
			Gallegly	Lee
			Ganske	Levin
			Gekas	Lewis (CA)
			Gibbons	Lewis (GA)
			Gilchrest	Lewis (KY)
			Gillmor	Linder
			Gilman	Lipinski
			Gonzalez	LoBiondo
			Goode	Lofgren
			Goodlatte	Lucas (KY)
			Goss	Lucas (OK)
			Graham	Luther
			Granger	Maloney (CT)
			Graves	Maloney (NY)
			Green (TX)	Manzullo
			Green (WI)	Markey
			Greenwood	Mascara
			Grucci	Matheson
			Gutierrez	Matsui
			Gutknecht	McCarthy (MO)
			Hall (OH)	McCarthy (NY)
			Hall (TX)	McCollum
			Hansen	McCrery
			Harman	McDermott
			Hart	McGovern
			Hastings (FL)	McHugh
			Hastings (WA)	McInnis
			Hayes	McIntyre
			Hayworth	McKeon
			Hefley	McNulty
			Herger	Meehan
			Hill	Meek (FL)
			Hilleary	Meeks (NY)
			Hilliard	Menendez
			Hinchee	Mica
			Hinojosa	Millender-
			Hobson	McDonald
			Hoefel	Miller (FL)
			Hoekstra	Miller, Gary
			Holden	Mink
			Holt	Moakley
			Honda	Mollohan
			Hooley	Moore
			Horn	Moran (KS)
			Hostettler	Moran (VA)
			Houghton	Morella
			Hoyer	Murtha
			Hulshof	Myrick
			Hunter	Nadler
			Hutchinson	Napolitano
			Hyde	Neal
			Inslie	Nethercutt
			Isakson	Ney
			Israel	Northrup
			Issa	Norwood
			Istook	Nussle
			Jackson (IL)	Oberstar
			Jackson-Lee	Obey
			(TX)	Olver
			Jefferson	Osborne
			Jenkins	Ose
			John	Otter
			Johnson (CT)	Owens
			Johnson (IL)	Oxley
			Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
			Johnson, Sam	Pascrell
			Jones (NC)	Pastor
			Jones (OH)	Payne
			Kanjorski	Pelosi
			Kaptur	Pence
			Keller	Peterson (MN)
			Kelly	Peterson (PA)
			Kennedy (MN)	Petri
			Kennedy (RI)	Phelps
			Kerns	Pickering
			Kildee	Pitts
			Kilpatrick	Platts
			Kind (WI)	Pombo
			King (NY)	Pomeroy
			Kingston	Portman
			Kirk	Price (NC)
			Kleczka	Pryce (OH)
			Knollenberg	Putnam
			Kolbe	Quinn
			Kucinich	Radanovich
			LaFalce	Ramstad
			LaHood	Rangel
			Lampson	Regula
			Langevin	Rehberg