

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, families are overtaxed, businesses are overregulated, and our economy is suffering as a result. Clearly there is room within the enormous tax surplus to pay down the debt and fund priority programs while ensuring working families receive the tax relief they both need and deserve. Full, fair, and immediate tax relief has been and will continue to be one of my top priorities here in Congress.

The easiest thing to do in Washington is to increase spending. One of the hardest things to do is to reduce taxes. But thanks to the President's steadfast leadership, hardworking taxpayers will get the significant tax relief they deserve.

Already this session of Congress, the U.S. House has passed key tax relief proposals, including repeal of the death tax, marriage penalty tax relief, and the expansion of the child tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, our new President has been in the White House just over 100 days and already we have helped him to deliver this incredible tax relief package to the American people. This is not only a victory, it is a victory accomplished with incredible speed. Within this year, hardworking Americans across this Nation will be benefiting from more dollars in their pockets.

#### BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just by looking around us at our homes, our offices, our roads and our local infrastructure, we can see that construction has an important impact on our lives. Members of Congress and the public need to better understand the tremendous contribution the construction industry makes to our Nation's economy.

The value of construction put in place in the United States for the year 2000 was over \$800 billion, about 8.25 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product.

Because construction is such an important part of our everyday lives and to bring a pro-construction perspective to Congress, I believed it was necessary to start the Building a Better America Caucus. The purpose of the caucus is to educate Members of Congress and staff on building-related issues that impact our districts and our constituents, from affordable housing to airport construction, to increasing access to training in the construction trades.

I urge all of my colleagues to support our Nation's builders by joining the Building a Better America Caucus.

#### FBI BACKGROUND CHECKS NEED TO BE SPEEDED UP

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, in this week's National Journal, Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, calls the number and length of FBI background checks "insane."

I read in Insight Magazine last week that only 55 nominees for sub-Cabinet positions have been confirmed out of 436 positions.

Paul Light of the Brookings Institution's Presidential Appointee Initiative was quoted as saying that the Bush administration will be "lucky" to have these positions filled by March 1 of next year.

In other words, the Bush administration, which is already being blamed for problems that started long before it came into office, will not really have its people in upper-level positions until well over a year after the President was sworn in. This is ridiculous.

Mr. Ornstein said most of the 1,250 top positions should have a simple, quick computer background check.

I read in the Knoxville News-Sentinel that even Senator Howard Baker who spent 18 years in the Senate and 2 years as chief of staff at the White House had to fill out a detailed 85-page questionnaire, one question of which was, "Have you ever been involved in a controversial issue?"

Mr. Speaker, this process has become ridiculously bureaucratic and needs to be greatly speeded up.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any recorded votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

#### WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1000) to adjust the boundary of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in the State of Ohio, to authorize an exchange of land in connection with the historic site, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1000

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "William Howard Taft National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act of 2001".*

#### SEC. 2. EXCHANGE OF LANDS AND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, OHIO.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term "historic site" means the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati, Ohio, established pursuant to Public Law 91-132 (83 Stat. 273; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Proposed Boundary Map, William Howard Taft National Historic Site, Hamilton County, Cincinnati, Ohio," numbered 448/80,025, and dated November 2000.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF LAND EXCHANGE.—

(1) EXCHANGE.—The Secretary may acquire a parcel of real property consisting of less than one acre, which is depicted on the map as the "Proposed Exchange Parcel (Outside Boundary)", in exchange for a parcel of real property, also consisting of less than one acre, which is depicted on the map as the "Current USA Ownership (Inside Boundary)".

(2) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—If the values of the parcels to be exchanged under paragraph (1) are not equal, the difference may be equalized by donation, payment using donated or appropriated funds, or the conveyance of additional land.

(3) ADJUSTMENT OF BOUNDARY.—The Secretary shall revise the boundary of the historic site to reflect the exchange upon its completion.

(c) ADDITIONAL BOUNDARY REVISION AND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

(1) INCLUSION OF PARCEL IN BOUNDARY.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the boundary of the historic site is revised to include an additional parcel of real property, which is depicted on the map as the "Proposed Acquisition".

(2) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may acquire the parcel referred to in paragraph (1) by donation, purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(e) ADMINISTRATION OF ACQUIRED LANDS.—Any lands acquired under this section shall be administered by the Secretary as part of the historic site in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1000, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), would authorize the Secretary of Interior to adjust the boundary of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati, Ohio. This site commemorates the only man to serve as