

So if you want to talk about risk in Social Security, then talk about leaving it in the hands of Congress. That is why the personal savings account eliminates that risk, because it belongs to you. Congress cannot take it away. You have ownership of it and we cannot take it away from you. That is why I think the personal savings accounts are so very, very important. So if we want to talk about risk and we want to talk about reducing risk, let us talk about ways in which we can make sure that people have control over some part and we are only talking about a very small part of the total amount being paid in Social Security taxes, because if I have not made this clear this evening, all the plans we are talking about leave the vast majority of the taxes in the current system, so that it pays beneficiaries today and is going to pay beneficiaries in the future the same kinds of defined benefit that we now get from Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity this evening to have this dialogue with my friend from Minnesota. I appreciate his comments and I appreciate the passion with which he approaches this issue. I think we both know this is one of the most significant debates I think we will ever have in our lives in this legislative body, because I think it says a great deal not just about the future of Social Security, but it says a great deal about whether we as a Congress are going to have the will to tackle the really tough problems which face us. Social Security, believe it or not, is one of the easier ones. We have to get to Medicare to really look at the very difficult problems that we are facing. But if we can show we have the will to come together and find solutions to strengthening and making Social Security a better retirement system, then I think we can go on to finding ways to strengthen and make Medicare a better health care system for our senior citizens. That is why I know the gentleman from Minnesota is down here tonight, because he believes that and he believes that is exactly what we must do and I believe it very strongly.

In my heart of hearts, I believe that what we are doing here today is to help preserve this system for those who are already retired but also to say to the next generation, we believe that you too should be able to benefit from a retirement system, a Social Security system that will be there for you when you get ready to retire. I believe that this dialogue needs to continue. We have started it this evening, we have joined this debate, and I hope we can have more discussion of these issues, not just with Republicans on one side of the aisle, not just with Democrats on the other side of the aisle but coming together here to carry on these debates and this discussion together and perhaps we can find some kinds of ways

in which we can have the solution. I thank the gentleman for his participation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the television audience.

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. GENE GREEN of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MEEHAN, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BOUSTANY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RANGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. McDERMOTT, and to include extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$1,919.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 3, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

960. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Pittsfield and Easthampton, Massachusetts, and Malta, New York) [MB Docket No. 04-67; RM-10856] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

961. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Nevada City, California) [MB Docket No. 04-338; RM-11061] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

962. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Clayton and Raton, New Mexico) [MB Docket No. 04-220; RM-10861] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

963. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast Stations (Medical Lake, Washington) [MB Docket No. 04-250; RM-11006] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

964. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast Stations (Great Falls, Montana) [MB Docket No. 04-182; RM-10963] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

965. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Children's Television Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters [MM Docket No. 00-167] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

966. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 [CG Docket No. 02-278] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

967. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the semi-annual report of the Inspector General for the 6-month period ending September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

968. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting the report listing the amount of acquisitions made by the Department from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States for FY 2004, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, section 645; to the Committee on Government Reform.