me tell you if we default on Treasury bonds, it will be violating a faith that the U.S. Government has had with the rest of the world and with its taxpayers since we came into existence.

If we break that faith, we will never again regain the confidence of the markets; but, furthermore, we will hurt U.S. bondholders which include pensioners throughout this country. We will hurt homeowners who will see their mortgage rates to up, particularly those who have adjustable rate mortgages.

Mr. Speaker, you are playing with fire if you are talking about defaulting on United States debt. Do not default, or history will find you wrong.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule:

Committee on Commerce, Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Committee on International Relations, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Science, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Utah?

There was no objection.

□ 1030

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1833, PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 1995

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 251 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 251

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1833) to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered as read for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Utah [Mrs. WALDHOLTZ] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSON] pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yield is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 251 is a closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1833, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1995. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Judiciary Committee and provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, of all of the issues with which our society, and this Congress, grapples, perhaps none is so contentious and difficult as the issue of abortion. It is an issue on which thoughtful people of good will, who have carefully pondered and considered its various aspects, passionately disagree, each side believing it is protecting the most fundamental of rights.

And yet, as divisive as this issue is, a majority of the citizens of our Nation have sought and found some common ground. One such area of general agreement relates to use of taxpayer funds. Most Americans do not think the money they send to their Government should be used to pay for elective abortions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the bill that we will debate today is another area where we can find that common ground. Because through this bill we will bring to an end a practice that is so gruesome and horrific and so repugnant to the valuing of human life that the American Medical Association's Council on Legislation voted unanimously to recommend that the AMA Board of Trustees endorse this bill, with one member voting that the council members agreed that this procedure is basically repulsive.

Mr. Speaker, let me stress that this debate is not about the myriad of other issues relating to abortion. This bill is very narrowly drawn to address only this particular procedure, and that is why we have brought this bill to the floor under a closed rule. While the Rules Committee has successfully worked to drastically reduce the number of closed rules in this Congress as compared to past years, it is appropriate to limit the debate on this very narrow proposal, and not attempt to use this as a vehicle to debate the enormous range of contentious issues relating to abortion.

Mr. Speaker, we have some anomalies in our laws across the country regarding the rights and interests of children. We recognize that children of parents who die before the child's birth should nevertheless be recognized as heirs of that parents's estate—establishing a property right for unborn children. We recognize causes of action for death or injury to unborn children—recognition of their right to be free from injury or pain. The moment a child is born any intentional injury to that child can be prosecuted as child abuse. And yet, the procedure we debate today indisputably causes pain and ends the life of partially born children—children whose bodies have been delivered and are outside the mother's womb but whose heads remain inside while the doctor ends the child's life and then finished the birth—except there is no birth now because the child is now dead. And currently, our laws do not protect these children.

Mr. Speaker, surely this is an area where we can find that elusive common ground—and prohibit a procedure used in lateterm abortions that measures the difference between life and death in inches. A procedure that one practitioner admits he has used for purely elective abortions 80 percent of the time.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that this bill is a place for us to set aside our other differences and unite in prohibiting a violent, morally repugnant practice. I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEILENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Utah [Mrs. WALDHOLTZ] for yielding the customary 30 minutes of debate time to me.

Mr. Speaker, we oppose in the strongest possible terms both this closed rule and the legislation it makes in order. This is, we believe, a dangerous piece of legislation that makes it a crime to perform a medically established, safe method of completing late abortions. We oppose the bill not only because it is the first time the Federal Government would ban a form of abortion, but also because it is part of an effort to make it virtually impossible for any abortion to be performed late in a pregnancy, no matter how endangered the mother's life on health might be.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, if I may say so as the author of California's Therapeutic Abortion Act, which our then Governor Mr. Reagan signed into law back in 1967, which is one of the first laws in the Nation passed to protect the lives of women, I cannot express how strongly and strenuously I oppose the bill, and how profoundly sad and disturbing I find it that we seem to be poised to turn back the clock 30 years by insisting again, as we used to, that the State, and not the individual woman and her family, make this most personal and horrific decision for every family facing this tragic choice.