

from over charitable gifts in the first place.

With that very minor and I hope not too nagging technicality, I also, as an original cosponsor of the legislation, urge Members to support the passage of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. STARK].

□ 1515

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kindness.

I want to support H.R. 2525, granting antitrust relief to charitable gift annuities, because we are going to need some more charitable gifts.

Now, to my modern-day pharisees on the other side of the aisle, I would point out it is, indeed, a Christian thing to do to encourage giving. The Bible uses the word "give" 862 times, and the phrase "stop giving" does not appear at all. But the Republicans are stopping giving.

H.R. 2525 may help that. But I wonder, and I am not a lawyer so I would have to rely on the Committee on the Judiciary, low-income energy assistance is being cut. Should we, therefore, give an exemption to the oil companies?

Food stamps are being capped and cut 20 percent.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, point of order. Should the gentleman's remarks be confined to the bill and not to extraneous matter that may be lurking within his fertile imagination?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR). The gentleman is correct. The Chair would admonish the gentleman from California to limit his remarks to the subject matter of H.R. 2525 currently pending before this body.

Mr. STARK. I thank the Speaker, and I shall continue to talk about granting of antitrust relief to encourage gift annuities, which I believe is the bill, the nexus of the relationship.

For instance, Medicare, which is being cut where it pays for debt for low-income seniors, the hospitals very much want an antitrust exemption, which is really the nexus of this bill.

Would it not be wise to correct the Republican mistake of cutting Medicare and to give hospitals an antitrust exemption?

Or, in the same vein, H.R. 2525 allows antitrust relief. Would it not be good to give antitrust relief to the landlords of Macy's and Wal-Mart because of the \$33 billion in earned income tax credits being cut out of low-income people while rich people will not need it? I suggest that is within the nexus of H.R. 2525 and antitrust relief.

Finally, college aid is being cut \$5 billion. Last weekend Muskingum College in Ohio was dropping tuition from \$13,000 a year to \$9,000 a year. I remember when MIT and the Ivy leagues were clamped for antitrust for getting together on student aid.

Why not give the college antitrust relief? Then we will not need the col-

lege loan program that the Republican are gutting.

So I say support H.R. 2525. Start a movement. Replace the \$254 billion in charitable cuts the Republicans are making with a Thousand Points of Light.

I urge support of the bill.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my support to the effort being made to assist our Nation's charities, universities, hospitals, and other organizations that hold as their sole objective assisting the needy. The Philanthropy Protection Act and the Charitable Gift Annuity Antitrust Relief Act are necessary steps toward restoring the interpretation of the purpose of charitable gifts. Without these two pieces of legislation, the foundation for donating charitable gifts and trusts will be eliminated.

Because of a lawsuit filed in my district, organizations ranging from the Girl Scouts of America and the Southern Baptist Foundation to the Red Cross and Texas Tech University will be in true danger of losing their primary source of revenue. In an era when we are asking Americans to take greater responsibility for themselves, their families, and their neighbors, we must protect charitable organizations' ability to continue their work.

The two acts offered on the House floor today will establish charitable gift annuities as an exemption from Federal antitrust and securities laws that require interest return at market rates. This will enable charitable organizations to continue to accept planned giving donations from individuals, pay out reasonable annual returns to the donor and provide the excess interest to benevolent activities.

People who give charitable gifts do not do it to get rich—they do it mainly to help others. Using charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts makes it possible for donors to make a contribution, while still retaining some income from their gift. This flexible arrangement allows the funds to be used to care for and educate the less fortunate while at the same time providing investment income for the donor.

In light of the immense benefit of these kind of gifts, it is only unfortunate that these bills were precipitated by some heirs seeking to retain the donations for their own use. Although this originated in the 13th District in Texas, the effects of these two acts will benefit the entire Nation. It is for these reasons that I am proud to join in this bipartisan effort.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say how pleasant it is to have the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] on our side.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 5:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 5:30 p.m.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARR) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair will now put the questions that were postponed earlier today in the order in which each question was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2519 de novo; and

H.R. 2525 by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

PHILANTHROPY PROTECTION ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question de novo on the passage of the bill, H.R. 2519, on which further proceeding were postponed.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 822]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie	Baker (CA)	Bartlett
Ackerman	Baker (LA)	Barton
Allard	Baldacci	Bass
Andrews	Ballenger	Bateman
Archer	Barcia	Becerra
Armey	Barr	Beilenson
Bachus	Barrett (NE)	Bentsen
Baessler	Barrett (WI)	Bereuter